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\$2 Million Spent on Cultural Capital



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MARCH 27, 2008
ISSUE 748

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Garage rocker Michael Rault of Mixed Signals and classical Indian dancer Jena Krystofiak show off spring fashions.

PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

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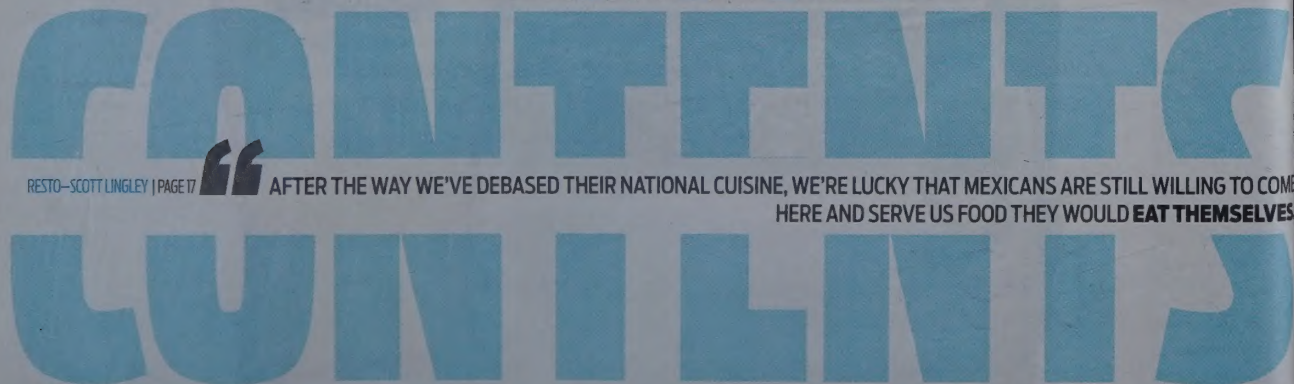


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Corb Lund, Apr 3, Rexall Place

MARCH 27

ballet | **ANASTASIA** The drama of the youngest Romanov daughter, presented by the innovative Ballet Jorgen Canada. At The MacLab Centre For The Performing Arts.

MARCH 28

music | **DANNY MICHEL** In 2004, Michel lost a Juno Award for Best New Artist to fellow nominee Michael Bubl . What a crock. At the Myer Horowitz Theatre.

MARCH 29

film | **ALBERTA STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL** Alberta's film-making talent of tomorrow, today! At Metro Cinema.

MARCH 30

art | **REAR WINDOW/VERTIGO** Is it more fun to watch a wheelchair-bound Jimmy Stewart get stalked by a murderer, or a lovesick Stewart suffering from Hitchcock's nausea-inducing idea of what vertigo feels like? Luckily, we needn't decide. At Metro Cinema.

MARCH 31

music | **BLACK MOUNTAIN** The vanguard of Vancouver's Black Mountain Army collective, Black Mountain will storm the Starlite Room with riffage.

APRIL 1

art | **UNPACKED** In her Harcourt House exhibit, Jennifer Pickering uses enormous towers of hollowed-out hardshell suitcases to advance her commentary on global economic inequality. Duh.

APRIL 2

theatre | **MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE** Rachel Corrie was a 22-year-old American who was killed trying to stop an Israeli bulldozer from destroying a Palestinian family's home. Was she a fool, an idealist, or a martyr? At Catalyst Theatre.

APRIL 3

music | **CORB LUND AND THE HURTIN' ALBERTANS** He's back! Fresh off his world tour, the hometown hero returns. Wait a minute! At Rexall Place? He's going to need to sell some tickets. You're going to need to buy some.

APRIL 4

music | **BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH** They have two Juno nominations... what have you got? Well, if nothing else, you have an opportunity to see the twice-Juno-nominated pride of Queen's University at Grant MacEwan College.

APRIL 5

theatre | **HOMELESS FUNDRAISER** This one-night-only performance of Jeremy Bauman's look at life on the street benefits the George Spady Centre and Azimuth Theatre. Show and more at the Arts Barns, info at azimuththeatre.com.

APRIL 6

film | **TERRY MORRISON CD RELEASE** We'd walk a mile over busted bottles to hear Terry, but throw in Mike Lent, Mo Lefever, Graham Guest, and more, and we're ready to run to the Freemason's Hall (103 St & 100 Ave) on our bare hands.

APRIL 7

music | **NEW MODEL ARMY** American visa-granting officials couldn't keep them away forever. Now triumphant, New Model Army march into New City on the heels of the release of their album *High*.

APRIL 8

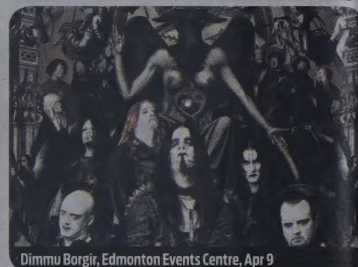
film | **YOUTH WITHOUT YOUTH** Regained youth! Pursued by Nazis! Tim Roth! Lost love! Francis Ford Coppola! Metro Cinema! Do it!

APRIL 9

theatre | **DIMMU BORGIR** They look like a cross between KISS and a pile of corpses, but they're from Norway, so we'll give them the benefit of the doubt. The black metal band hits the Edmonton Event Centre.

APRIL 10

dance | **KI** We're generally insensitive when it comes to tree issues, but we intend to let Mile Zero rectify that with dance and shadow puppets at the Arts Barns. Don't believe us? Info at milezerodance.com



Dimmu Borgir, Edmonton Events Centre, Apr 9

Music | APR 9



THEY LOOK LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN KISS AND A PILE OF CORPSES, BUT THEY'RE FROM NORWAY, SO WE'LL GIVE THEM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

see magazine's two-week forecast of events in edmonton

listings: news pg 12 | city life pg 18 | music pg 45 | film caps pg 51 | arts pg 56

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“IT JUST SEEMED LIKE THE TERM [“COMMUNITY ARTS”] WAS BEING CO-OPTED BY PEOPLE WHO I THINK **DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT.** —ARTS FUNDING CRITIC LYN X

NEWS • ARTS FUNDING • BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT | 843 words

The Arts Funding X-Factor



Funds For Fireworks | Edmonton spent \$760,000 in federal funding on the New Year's celebration, a poetry festival, and a speakers series.

EDMONTON'S YEAR AS A CULTURAL CAPITAL HAS WRAPPED UP, BUT WAS THAT \$2,000,000 SPENT WISELY?

Lyn X knows she's earned a reputation as a caustic critic of arts funding. Over her 10 years in Edmonton's arts scene, the program manager of the Edmonton Small Press Association has often complained about flagship arts organizations like Alberta Ballet and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra getting far more funding than smaller organizations. "I've had people tell me I'm the most offensive person they've ever met," she says. "But what have I said? I'm just saying that this is bullshit. People are just too polite and are afraid that if they criticize, they are going to get shut out." And X certainly isn't afraid to share her views on the recently wrapped Cultural Capital events. The city received \$2,000,000 from the federal government along with the title of Cultural Capital for 2007. Artists, both as individuals and organizations, received roughly 50 per cent of the total budget though direct grants. The other million was spent on the events (New Year's celebration in Churchill Square, the Poetry Festival, an international speakers series), on marketing, and on a survey.

While X acknowledges that the city made an effort to reach out to community arts organizations through the "explorations" grant program, she says the Cultural Capital program was characterized by the same elitism that she's complained about for years in Edmonton.

"If they are going to be really serious about community arts," she says, "they should have had a forum at iHuman. But of course, that's in the inner city and it's dirty, so it's never going to happen.... It just seemed like the term [community arts] was being co-opted by people who I think don't really understand the concept."

John Mahon, executive director of the Edmonton Arts Council, knows X's stance all too well. He even appreciates her willingness to challenge the status quo. But, he adds, that it's easy to be negative about the Cultural Capital spending. For instance, Mahon points to the speakers series, which brought in such figures as John Holden from the Demos: The Think Tank for Everyday Democracy in England and consultant Glen Murray from Toronto. People may complain that it was expensive (\$390,000), says Mahon, but it formed an essential part of the discussion the city wanted to generate around art and culture in Edmonton.

The majority of the speeches were very well attended, Mahon adds, and just because X thinks they didn't have enough of a grassroots component, that doesn't mean Edmontonians didn't benefit from them.

"Take New Year's," he continues. "That's the one that people think was the most frivolous. That was \$200,000. A lot of that budget went directly to artists for their work that evening." The \$170,000 spent on the Poetry Festival also primarily went to local people, who would otherwise not have been employed in the arts sector.

But X isn't arguing against the poetry festival—or any other cultural event, for that matter. Indeed, she directly benefited from the Poetry Festival: she was employed as the festival's anthology co-ordinator. What upsets her is that so much money went to what she sees as events that Edmonton artists were invited into something that was already planned, and intended only to lend the event an air of artistic "legitimacy." (She points to the Poetry Festival's inclusion of hip-hop performers as a particularly clumsy attempt to gain street cred.)

"There should have been more of an effort to include those of us who have been working in the community for the last decade," she says. Instead, she received an e-mail invit-

ing her to hear outside experts talk about the importance of arts and culture.

As for the long-term legacy of the Cultural Capital year here in Edmonton, it's very hard to point to one project that definitively made Edmonton a more cultural and artistic city, but Mahon hopes that the city of the province see the promise in the Edmonton artistic scene and help continue these projects with more funding.

"It was short-term cash," says Steven Teeuwssen, founder of Notebook, an emerging Edmonton-based visual arts quarterly. "But it can't be totally discounted. It got people working on some projects. And just the experience of doing one project encourages people to do others."

He sees the speakers series, even at a cost of \$390,000, as a great way for people to start thinking and talking about the importance of Edmonton's arts scene. He believes the connection between potential art buyers and artists is the best way for artists to achieve long-term sustainability. The speakers series is one step towards making those connections.

X hopes Teeuwssen is right. "I like to think there's more awareness of community-based art and cultural development," she says. "But I haven't heard anything to make me think this is going to carry over."

NEWS BRIEFS BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT

ALBERTA • HUMAN RIGHTS VRIEND DECISION: 10 YEARS LATER

April 2 marks the 10th anniversary of Delwin Vriend's victory in his historic Supreme Court case against the province of Alberta.

Vriend was fired by Kings College, a Christian institution, in the late '90s after the college discovered he was gay. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms already outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation, but the Alberta Human Rights Commission ruled the college could fire him because of his sexuality, as sexual orientation was not protected under Alberta law. Vriend's family fought the firing all the way to the Supreme Court and in 1998, the court ruled in his favour.

To celebrate the occasion, Vriend will be in town over the next week and Exposure: Edmonton's Queer Arts and Culture Festival has organized a speaking engagement.

"It was a hugely important victory for social justice," says Exposure spokesperson Heather Zwicker, via e-mail. She hopes Ed Stelmach will celebrate the anniversary too, by going the extra step and actually writing the protection of gays and lesbians into the Individual Rights Protection Act.

EDMONTON • ARENA REPORT STADIUM OPPOBRIUM

If Edmonton wants a new arena, it has to be where land developers can make a profit.

That's the recommendation of the city's Leadership Committee for a New Sports and Entertainment Facility.

"Equity contributors could also be available in hotel and condominium development, retail stores, nightclubs, restaurants, a casino, etc.," reads the report.

Here's how the thinking goes: in order for the city to attract private investors, there has to be moneymaking potential for developers in the area around the new arena. Private investors can make more money off developing the surrounding area than the arena itself, which in turn provides an incentive for them to build the arena.

During a packed press conference on Tuesday, committee chair Lyle Best repeatedly said a downtown location was the only option. "We knew very early on," he said, "that dropping the arena in the middle of nowhere wasn't going to do anything." So, traffic be damned, that's where it has to go.

The committee estimates the capital costs of the arena at \$450 million, excluding land costs. The funding plan they put together involves a number of contributors, including: (1) \$100 million already promised by prospective owner Daryl Katz; (2) private investments; (3) debt, taken on by either a private company or the public sector; and (4) a "Community Revitalization Levy," i.e., a city investment that would be borrowed using future increases in tax dollars as collateral.

If this is so great for the city, we'd love to see (2) put its money where its mouth is.

Gateway Hill: Mountain Of Rubbish

ALBERTA HAS ISSUED ITS FIRST-EVER RECLAMATION CERTIFICATE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE OILSANDS LAND IS FULLY RECOVERED

When Syncrude shows out-of-town-ers its oilsands operations north of Fort McMurray, the company ends each tour with a stop at Gateway Hill, a relatively young forest on the east side of Highway 63. It used to be a wetland back in the 1970s, before the company started mining nearby for oilsands.

Today, the company uses the tree-covered area as a visible example of the oil industry's environmental stewardship. Syncrude calls it a "reclaimed" site—and, in a first for the oilsands industry, the Alberta government certified it as such on March 19, ending a lengthy application process. By certifying the 104-hectare site, the Alberta government has robbed oilsands critics of one of their most common criticisms: "No oilsands land has ever been certified as reclaimed." Now it has.

There's little visible trace of industrial activity from years past on Gateway Hill. "When you dig the earth above the oilsands, you have to put that non-oilsands material to



Gateway Hill | Syncrude land has been reclaimed as upland instead of wetlands. ILLUSTRATION BY TOM BARLEY

the side," says Syncrude spokesperson Alain Moore. "This hill—Gateway Hill—represents that material that we put on the side as we began our initial mining operation in the 1970s."

However, the site is completely different from what it was in 1970. "It's gone from a lower-lying wetland landscape to an upland landscape that's not at all representative of what was lost," says Pembina Institute policy analyst Jennifer Grant. The site now has hiking trails, biking trails, and interpretive signs—as well

as some wetlands, albeit "less than what there was before," according to Moore.

Alberta Environment's stated goal of reclamation is to restore disturbed land to "equivalent land capability," but Grant says that's a "subjective and somewhat vague" goal. "A lot of people might think it is restoration,

land into upland like Syncrude did at Gateway Hill, there are many ecological implications. "With the loss of wetlands, you're losing a host of ecosystem services," says Grant. Wetlands—shallow ponds, fens, muskeg, and marshes—help purify water, control soil erosion, provide flood control, moderate climate change,

it's taken more than 40 years for relatively small site to be certified, and the speed of development is outpacing the speed of reclamation. "That's 104 hectares out of 42,000 hectares of disturbed land," says Grant. "We have a long, long way to go to catch up to development." She suggests tying development to reclamation so damage could be minimized, so that "with every 100 hectares of disturbed land, there would be another 100 hectares of land that is certified as reclaimed."

Syncrude says it has reclaimed about 4,500 hectares of land. However, the Gateway Hill site is the only one that's been certified. "Basically when we plant vegetation... is when we then categorize it as reclaimed land," says Moore, adding the company is "currently assessing" other reclaimed areas to submit for certification.

The Gateway Hill site also doesn't represent the major environmental challenge facing the industry: lakes filled with tailings, or toxic sludge. "That is where the most serious most significant challenges lie for reclamation in the oilsands," Grant says. "We're a long way off from solving these problems."

"THAT'S 104 HECTARES OUT OF 42,000 HECTARES OF DISTURBED LAND. WE HAVE A LONG, LONG WAY TO GO TO CATCH UP WITH DEVELOPMENT."

[that] what is lost will be restored," she says, "but it's very different."

Kim Capstick, communications director for Alberta Environment, says the land needs to go back to "being useful" for it to be certified as reclaimed—but that doesn't mean wetlands will necessarily be replaced with wetlands. "We can't say that because, for instance, there were five trees on this plot of land, there needs to be specifically five trees put back," Capstick says. "We're going to look at it from a much broader perspective than that. So in this case, what had been wetland is now upland... It's different for each area."

When a company transforms wet-

and provide habitat to birds and fish. About half the oilsands region is covered by wetlands.

Liberal environment critic David Swann says "lax" reclamation regulations cast doubt on the province's efforts to conserve and restore Alberta's shrinking wetlands. "If we're serious about that commitment, then we have to make sure that every square kilometre of wetland that's being lost to the oilsands has to be replaced in some way," he says. "I don't see that yet."

Grant acknowledges Syncrude's reclamation certification is "significant to a certain degree," but she lists off several other problems. For one,

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Northland Village
Shawnessy Village
Southcentre Mall

Southpointe Shopping Centre
Sundridge Mall
Westbrook Mall (kiosk)
EDMONTON
184th St. at Stony Plain Rd.
3918 White Mud at 17th St.
6143 28th Ave.
9774 170th St.
10103 107th Ave.

12804 82nd St.
14808 Stony Plain Rd
Bonnie Doon
Edmonton City Centre
Kingsway Garden Mall
Londonderry Mall
Mill Woods Town Centre
Northgate Centre (kiosk)
Sherwood Park Mall
South Edmonton Common

Southgate Centre
St. Albert Centre
St. Albert Trail at 137th Ave.
Terwilliger Gardens
West Edmonton Mall
Westmount Centre
Whyte Ave. at 107th St.
SPRUCE GROVE
Creekside Centre

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“IT'S A TESTAMENT OF OUR LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO LAND RECLAMATION.”

—Suncrude president and CEO Tom Katina, in a company release on the reclaimed Gateway Hill land. It's the first land to receive a government certificate in 40 years of oil sands development.



WITNESS

MARCH 11, 2008 6:36:07 PM CALGARY PHOTO BY JEFF CAMDEN

A man amongst a crowd protesting an Aryan Guard march is rushed after he reveals that he has a swastika tattoo. The police later took control and arrested the tattooed man.

OUR COMMENT ON THIS WEEK'S NEWS

EDMONTON • TRANSIT EXTEND SCHOOL BUS PASSES

The group pushing for an extension of ETS passes to schoolkids is still caught in a bureaucratic nightmare.

When SEE spoke with the Student Pass Initiative last spring, they were hopeful that forthcoming meetings with the public and Catholic school boards would produce some kind of an agreement for the following school year.

Almost a year later, the group is stuck in the same place.

Chalk one up for shortsightedness. The province provides a subsidy to both boards, and the boards don't think the province should be paying for kids to go to the library on Saturdays.

Apparently, learning can only take place on weekdays. But the province is already paying for the subsidy. Why not just extend the passes and encourage students to get into the public transportation habit?

CANADA • POLICE AND SECURITY RCMP TASER USE INCREASING

The tasing death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski in October is still fresh in the minds of Canadians. His case put a much-needed human face to the ongoing discussion of the controversial weapons.

This week CBC broke the news that RCMP use of the controversial weapons is increasing. Alberta's numbers are pretty scary. In 2005, there were 89 incidents. Three years later, that total rose to 371.

And the secrecy surrounding these incidents is also rising. In the documents obtained by CBC and CP, basic details like the date of the incident and whether the suspect was armed were omitted.

Resistance to these "weapons of last resort" is increasing, but the RCMP aren't taking much notice. Even after Dziekanski's death, the RCMP continued to buy the weapons. An RCMP tender was put out for 160 replacement units in January.

WORLD • FOREIGN AID ECONOMIES OF WAR

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), which includes Oxfam Canada, has released a scathing report on the level of foreign aid reaching Afghanistan and where the money actually ends up.

Canada didn't do too badly (we've given \$750 million of the \$800 million we committed to), but the report is still an indictment of the way the various United Nations countries have run aid in the troubled country. The United States has delivered only half its \$10.4 billion aid commitment. The EU has given only two-thirds of its \$1.7 billion.

And why haven't all these dollars produced more bang (the non-explosive kind)? Private contractor fees, for one, which direct much of the aid money back into the donating countries' economies. ACBAR estimates that a whopping 40 per cent of all Afghan aid money, in fact, went towards corporate profits and consultant fees.

BY THE NUMBERS

IT'S THE LEAST THEY CAN DO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS

*SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

ALBERTA'S MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE INCREASES BY 40 CENTS TO \$8.40 ON APRIL. HERE'S HOW THE PROVINCES STACK UP IN TERMS OF INCREASES OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

\$6.25 TO \$8.00 — UP \$1.75

SASKATCHEWAN

\$7.05 TO \$8.60 — UP \$1.55

NEW BRUNSWICK

\$6.30 TO \$7.75 — UP \$1.45

ALBERTA

\$7.00 TO \$8.40 — UP \$1.40

NOVA SCOTIA

\$6.60 TO \$8.10 — UP \$1.50

MANITOBA

\$7.25 TO \$8.50 — UP \$1.25

ONTARIO

\$7.75 TO \$8.75 — UP \$1.00

PEI

\$6.80 TO 7.75 — UP 95 CENTS

QUEBEC

\$7.60 TO \$7.75 — UP 90 CENTS

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

\$8.25 — NO INCREASE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

\$8.00 — NO INCREASE

Democracy: Unreasonably Time-Consuming

OPINION EXILE

DECLINING ELECTION TURN-OUTS SUGGEST THE AMERICAN IDOL GENERATION LIKES TO VOTE FROM THE COUCH

"People get the politicians they deserve."

It's a deadly accurate cliché that encourages citizens to look in the mirror to find the source of their troubles, but most of us can't be bothered to introspect. To the extent that we care, we often blame others or "the system" for our lack of interest in politics and our low level of participation in the electoral process.

Alberta's editorial pages have been weighed down with hand-wringing theories about the decline in voter participation in our province. The trend is the same elsewhere in the country, but, with the lowest participation in the country, we Albertans have outdone our compatriots, reflecting the competitive spirit we're known for.

All the usual explanations and proposed solutions have faults. Some blame our low turnout on the lack of a truly competitive environment in Alberta politics. But media commentators went out of their way in the recent Alberta campaign to play

up poll numbers showing a real race was in the offing—the first in 15 years. Still, turnout dropped, with the only significant boost in participation appearing to come from a segment of Conservative voters who were worried enough by the prospect of a non-Tory government to show up on election day.

This isn't an aberration, by the way. Across the country, higher turnouts tend to produce greater conservative legislative representation, a problem for theorists who assert that we would have many more left-wing governments if more people voted.

Voter turnout is also remaining static or dropping in provinces with hugely competitive electoral environments. Quebec's three-cornered race last year produced a less than one per cent bump in turnout. Nova Scotia has elected minority governments three out of the last four contests, yet turnout is hitting record lows there as well.

Preston Manning and others have suggested convening a citizens' assembly along the lines of the recent one in British Columbia, and/or placing various models of democratic reform on the ballot. These proposals are often made in conjunction with fixed election dates as a way of addressing voter cynicism over par-

tisan manipulation of election timing. Well, B.C. went for "all of the above" in its 2005 general election. The result was a nine percentage point drop in voter turnout.

New Brunswick, P.E.I., Quebec, and Ontario have all tried various combinations of these "democratic reform" proposals, with similar results. Voters reject the reforms and turnout remains the same or drops. Ontario even added longer polling hours, more advance polls, and more polling stations to the mix in 2007, but turnout still hit a record low. Tinkering with electoral mechanisms doesn't address the fundamental reasons people don't vote.

The lack of a "real choice" among parties is sometimes cited as a reason for declining voter interest, but we have more political variety in Alberta and Canada than at any other time since the Depression. And one could hardly argue that the various Alberta parties agreed on the major issues, from tar sands development and royalties to affordable housing and rent control. And party platforms and third-party information about issues have never been more available to the public than they are today.

A 2003 Elections Canada survey (available on their website) looked

at reasons for voter non-participation, and the traditional responses were well represented in the results: "voter wouldn't matter," "didn't know where or when," and "didn't care about the issues." The most popular answer, however, was "just not interested." People are increasingly tuning out electoral politics—it just doesn't exist for them. And the trend is strongest among teens and twentysomethings, who gave this response at a rate almost twice that of people close to or beyond retirement age.

The one other factor heavily skewed towards younger voters was "busy at work," a very telling response that reflects a shrinking of one's worldview to the immediate environment of family and close friends. This insularity means less identification with the problems of others and therefore less willingness to cooperate in the pursuit of common goals. It's a wholesale loss of civic identity and a severing of the link between the good of the individual and the good of society. Younger people are less likely to see the two as synonymous or even mutually dependent. You focus on you and yours and screw the rest. And if someone really gets on your case, you have the option of civil litigation, with the courts increasingly replacing politics

as the venue for redress of grievances, much like the situation south of the border.

Younger eligible voters are also impacted disproportionately by technology. Online and text message polls, and other instant surveys for everything from political preferences to amateur entertainers, have perhaps cheapened the voting experience and turned it into a disposable act. Voting in a real election takes extra effort—i.e., going to the polling place during certain hours, and thinking about complex issues that exceed our rapidly diminishing attention spans.

The responsibility for changing this trend starts at home. Children are much more likely to vote and to participate in institutions that stretch beyond their immediate interests if their parents do, and especially if their parents take the time to discuss these matters with them. Civic education must also become a greater component of school curricula if we really do believe that our democratic machinery is worth saving.

Because what we've shown so far is that we deserve politicians who are not interested in society's well-being, because we aren't either.

inexileeverywhere@gmail.com

ACTIVISM

ACTIVIST AGENDA An online newsletter resource for activism-related events in Edmonton, with up-to-date information on sustainable practices, networking, and active organizations in the city. Supplied and maintained by *Active's General Store* (1083-82 Ave. upstairs, 439-9725). Go to www.eggs.ca. Info also available in-store.

BIKE WORKS Fix your own bike. Edmonton Bicycle Community's *BikeWorks* is open only by volunteers. Hours vary by session; call ahead: 433-2453. www.edmontonbikes.ca

CSJ NEWS VOLUNTEERING Gain experience in radio, contribute to a diverse community, and learn new skills, all while sharing your community stories. Info: news.cjrs.com

COUNCIL OF CANADIANS 3RD WED EVERY MONTH Independent public interest organization promoting economic justice, democracy, and asserting Canadian sovereignty. Info: 429-4500.

EDMONTON 9/11 TRUTH An organization for Canadian citizens questioning the events of 9/11. For news, links, and local events: www.edmonton911truth.com

EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION 3RD WED EVERY MONTH P.M. An activist-arts and indie media collective, seeking socially-conscious artists, coordinators and production volunteers on an on-going basis. For info about upcoming events: edmontonsspa.org

FRIENDS OF LUBICON ALBERTA LUBICON, P.M. APRIL OFFICE: HUB MALL, U OF A CAMPUS Grassroots solidarity organization demanding fair land and just settlement for the Lubicon Cree of Northern Alberta. Info: www.lubicon.org

GREENPEACE ALBERTA Working and recruiting active members to help out on one of the world's most destructive projects: the Alberta Tar Sands. Info: rhudmud@greenpeace.org

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD 2ND WED EVERY MONTH 7PM RM 2-42, HUMANITIES BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS Meetings open to the public. Info: edmonton.iww.ca

MADELINE SANAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH 9AM-5PM FACULTY ST-LEAN, 8406-91ST, RM 3-18 Organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Instruction in French, English, and African languages. Admission free for members, membership \$10. Info: 490-7372

FACTORY WRECK READING SERIES 3RD TUE EVERY MONTH UNTIL MAY, 7PM UPSTAIRS, CAFE SELECT, 8404-

EDUCATION NORTH-4-104, U OF A CAMPUS A youth group promoting anti-racist and diversity workshops. Info: 425-4644 or www.naan.org

SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA Prairie Chapter works with ecologically and socially conscious individuals to build strong grassroots movement in the Prairies. Info: www.sierraclub.ca/prairie

SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT 4TH FRI EVERY MONTH 7PM, UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON, MAIN HALL, 10804-119 ST, MAR 28 "War on Democracy" US Imperialism: Latin America, Cuba Embargo. \$5 donation or PWYC at the door. Screenings followed by group discussion. Info: njt.edmonton@gmail.com

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MAR 28, 7:30 P.M. CITY HALL A march to protest violence against women and raise community awareness. Participants are asked to bring a t-shirt or other material decorated with an expression of their experiences. Info: Dawn, 471-6137 or Alaina at 634-2244.

THOUGHTFUL TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES TUE 7PM, STEEPS TALK LOUNGE, 1116-82 AVE. APR 8 "Earthlings" A documentary about humanity's dependence on animals.

Screenings free. Info: 988-8105 or kalmaj@interbaun.com

UNESCO COALITION FOR PEACE LAST FRI EVERY MONTH 3PM, BOYLE MCCAULEY HEALTH CENTRE, 220 FL. BOARDROOM, 10628-96 ST. Info: greenpeacecanada.org, 922-5566

WOMEN IN BLACK 1ST & 3RD SAT EVERY MONTH 10-11 AM, STRATHCONA FARMERS' MARKET, 83 AVE. & 103 ST. International women's peace and anti-racism group formed by Jewish and Arab women, opposing violence in all forms. All women, men, and children invited to attend the bi-weekly silent vigils. Info: 435-7051

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH 5PM, REMEDY CAFE, 8631-109 ST. For discussion topics and suggested readings go to www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=355925704

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109TH ST. APR 15 Kim Minkus, Catherine Owen, Christine Wiesenthal and Myra Kostash. A variety of poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction, hosted by Rob McLenman.

HEART BEAT WED, 8PM (UNTIL MAY 28) SIGN-UP 7:30 P.M. THE KASBAR LOUNGE, YVANN'S TAVERNA, 10444 WHYTE AVE. A new series of open-stage poetry and improv music/writing. Info: www.rainbowpoets.com

ISABELLA ST. JOHN MAR 27 7-9:30 P.M. ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL, 10186-106 ST. Lecture and Slideshow from Newfoundland Ceramic Artist, Isabella St. John. Info: www.craftcouncil.ca

LAND, IMMIGRATION, PSYCHE APR 8, 7PM GRANT MACLEAN CITY CENTRE CAMPUS, CN CONFERENCE THEATRE, 10700-104 AVE. By Dr. Phyllis Marie Jensen, Jungian Analyst. Admission: \$15 Members, \$20 Non-members, \$10 Students/Seniors. Info: www.jungforum.org or 488-0477

LUNCH BY THE BOOKS STANLEY A MILLER LIBRARY 12:30-2:00 P.M. WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE Noon-hour discussions offered by the U of A's Faculty of Arts and the Edmonton Public Library. Free. Info: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/arts/facultybooks.cfm

MIRACLE OF GREENS APR 1, 6-9 P.M. WHITEHORN CROSSING LIBRARY 4271-106 ST. Author Sergei Boutenko discusses the health benefits of greens and wild edibles. Admission: \$20, \$15 for Students/Seniors, register at vaufaltemativedance.org

THE OLIVE READING SERIES APRIL 8, 7PM, HULBERT'S 7601-115 ST. Reading by Edmonton Poet Laureate E.D. Blodgett. Free Admission.

POETRY OPENING STAGE THU, 8 P.M. NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR 10354 JASPER AVE. 425-9970. Weekly open stage poetry readings and performances. All welcome.

POETS' HAVEN READING SERIES MON, 7PM, UPPER CRUST CAFE 10909-96 AVE. Weekly readings, presented by the Striol of Poets Society. Info: nik.422-8174 or strollpoets.com

POETS IN JAIL 7-9 P.M. ST. THOMAS CAFE ST. ALBERT. Weekly writing evenings. Info: www.poetsink.org

STORY SLAM 3RD WED EVERY MONTH 8 P.M. BLUE CHAIR CAFE, 9624-76 AVE. Sign-up 7pm. First ten writers only, allotted five minutes each. Info: thebunkproject.org

WELCOME TO THE REEL WORLD SERIES WED, 5 P.M. RM 325, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING (CEB), U OF A CAMPUS Global issues film and speaker series. MAR 26, "Traa for Sale: The War Protectors". Info: www.iweek.ualberta.ca

WORDS WITHOUT BORDERS APR 4, 7PM, STANLEY A. MILLER LIBRARY Featuring readings by Jalal Baranzani, Atua Cooper, David Davidson and Sheng Xue. Admission: \$10.

WRITERS CORNER MAR 30, 3:30 P.M. STANLEY A. MILLER LIBRARY With writer, activist, poet and community worker, Greg Scofield. Info: 496-7000

LETTERS

LOL MOMENT

I just finished reading your review of *Never Back Down* [SEE #746]. Fucking hilarious, man. I haven't laughed that hard in a long time. Thanks for that. Oh yeah, I know you have to fill up a bunch of space with words and whatnot, but the review could have been shortened to one sentence: This movie is the *Karate Kid* of the double naughts. But that wouldn't have been nearly as funny.

TREVOR BLACK

READING SCENE

I fully agree with Matthew Halliday ["Who Needs Local Bookstores?" SEE #745].

Indie bookstores are indeed wonderful treasures that support and celebrate culture. I also agree that second-hand bookstores have a competitive advantage because they are comfortable and unique and have an eclectic selection and bibliophilic staff.

The article made me wonder how bookstores could adopt these features and avoid losing business to megastores. Reading needs to have its own scene, with bookstores being where people go to indulge in their passion, perhaps in a comfy sofa and some tasteful lighting. Bookstores could foster their patrons' sense of community by devoting space to the community where customers can leave notes regarding their favourite quotes or book suggestions. These ideas would make the practice of reading a less isolating experience.

The answer to increasing profits may be in bookstores that sell new and used books, which is highly appealing to me since I value recycling and can't afford new books due to

my typically low student income.

The ideas inspired by this article give me hope that it is possible for indie bookstores to adapt and transform into comfortable, unique, and affordable, yet profitable, hot spots that megastores can't compete with.

CHRISTIE CAMPBELL

TIRED OF TAFT

The central theme to our recent provincial election was change. We definitely saw change, but it wasn't a diminishing support for Conservatives that Albertans were probably expecting.

I am a Liberal supporter and I definitely want change. But what I don't want is Kevin Taft as premier. News articles and TV clips that feature him aggravate me. I'm anxiously waiting for him to finally say something that isn't laced with whining, accusation, and negativity. I realize he is the opposition, but can't some integrity be brought to the opposition? Albertans deserve a credible leader. Taft is determined to harp on what he deems an injustice—including so-called injustices he claims led to his recent defeat—rather than present solid leadership to complement the rest of his party.

I was mortified to see Mr. Taft, but I still voted Liberal. Conservatives have been in power since 1971. Albertans are getting increasingly frustrated; sounds like it's time to change parties. Alberta was ready for change on March 3. It's just a shame that because the right leader doesn't exist, Alberta won't be getting the change it needs and wants.

STUART BROWN

“THERE WERE TEARS IN MY EYES, AND IT WASN'T BECAUSE I WAS SAD. I WAS LAUGHING SO HARD, BECAUSE THEY WERE **SO FUNNY AND BAD.**”

—DESIGNER STANLEY CARROLL, ON REVISITING HIS OLD COLLECTIONS

STYLE • SILVER ANNIVERSARY • BY FAWNDA MITHRUSH | 952 words

Carroll In Wonderland

EDMONTON'S MOST PROLIFIC FASHION DESIGNER REMEMBERS 25 YEARS OF COUTURE AND COMMOTION

It's been a bit of an odd week for Stanley Carroll. While poring over countless hours of videotaped runway shows from the collections that comprise his quarter-century career in fashion design, Carroll realized he'd never actually witnessed one of his own shows before.

"I'm always in the back," he explains. "Most of them have been videotaped, and I've always refused to watch them." And it may have been a good thing too, considering his reaction to them. "There were tears in my eyes," he says, "and it wasn't because I was sad. I was laughing so hard, because they were so funny and bad."

He chortles at the thought, and indeed, it is a little strange how something can seem so haute one decade, and so hideous the next.

Perhaps it's a bit strange, too, that Carroll's latest collection is themed *Stranger in a Strange Land*. Strange in a fitting way, that is. Carroll says the inspiration for his current collection stems from the character of a writer who travels abroad in search of a story.

"[It's] about an individual who is out of his or her normal element, who spends a lot of time observing what happens around them... and they kind of stick out—you can tell that they don't belong," he explains. "What's interesting about them is that they feel comfortable in that situation. They feel comfortable standing out in whatever sort of crowd they're in."

The "Stranger" theme could be regarded as a disguised autobiography for Carroll himself, who emigrated from Utrecht, Holland when he was 16 and who has maintained a far-from-mainstream approach to fashion ever since his career began in the early '80s.

"I love the medium," he says, "but I don't have much good to say about the industry as a whole. The fashion industry by and large is a lot of... well, let's call it superficial crap but with pockets of really brilliant people out there doing some really cool things and giving us some really cool images."

One of his favourite collections was the Canadiana collection he designed between 1986 and 1987, which included garments ranging from high-high mukluks to igloo-shaped



Then And Now | Carroll's been doing this long enough to know how to enjoy his moment on the catwalk. PHOTOS COURTESY OF STANLEY CARROLL



coats to full-length dresses sequined with images of oil rigs. "Not being originally from Canada, it was a neat way for me to celebrate that kind of stuff—I don't think anybody else was doing it at the time," he remembers. "Frankly, a lot of people didn't get it."

He pauses and laughs. "Trust me."

He describes the disappointment that same collection prompted during an international trade show stint that year during the Toronto Festival of Fashion, where he found his collection being "edited" for the international stage rather than celebrated as uniquely Canadian. "I thought,

"What better way to show what Canada is doing as far as design goes?"—to actually turn into itself rather than pretend to be from Paris or New York or whatever."

Despite his best efforts, it was clear that the event organizers would have preferred Paris or New York. "They went out of their way to tone down our Canadiana image as much as they could," he says. "They changed the music, they edited out certain pieces that were strongly Canadian. It was disappointing on two levels: one, that their attitude was so insecure and narrow-minded; but also from a creative point of view where I felt that they were editing my work."

For all our starry-eyed notions that a better cultural infrastructure exists in the Big City, Carroll says it's not quite so welcoming to someone who thinks too far outside the box. "The freedom to work in whichever way you want to just doesn't exist there as much as people think," he says.

And that, Carroll explains, is one of the things he loves about design-

ing in Edmonton—and perhaps the reason he's chosen to remain here as a designer over two decades when countless other local artists have made the exodus to other parts of the country. There's a more intimate community to play in here—and when everyone has to occupy the same (smaller) pond, there's less politicking to put up with too. "You're sort of playing with no rulebook, so you can do whatever you want," he explains. "I think a lot of us are in that same situation with Edmonton, that love-hate thing where on one hand you realize it's an incredibly cool breeding ground because of that—you can do whatever the hell you want and nobody seems to stand in your way, and they'll actually hear you out—but then there's a certain point where the infrastructure isn't there, and sometimes you have to move on."

Though he admits that he's had to deal with a few setbacks in a city where industry and business don't understand the ins and outs of fashion, Carroll does his part to pass on

his years of accumulated knowledge to the city's emerging style gurus by standing on the board of the Emerging Designer competition at Edmonton Fashion Week.

"He's a world of wisdom for our young designers coming up," says Sandra Sing Fernandes, organizer of Edmonton Fashion Week. "Looking back at his evolution, he's definitely got his own style. He is somebody [whose designs] you can spot a mile away. A lot of designers will do a collection, and there won't be much connection from one season's collection to another, but Stanley's always had some continuity and flow in everything he's done. He's definitely got a European sensibility. Even though it's trendy in some senses, it's always clean and classic. We're so happy that he's here, and that we haven't lost him to another city."

Or another *Strange Land*. But he seems pretty happy in our familiar landscape—and we're in need of more strangers like him.



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by Jeffrey Hatcher

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www.shadowtheatre.org



IMBIBING • MICROBREWERY • BY MELISSA PRIESTLEY | 1852 words

Strange Brews For Garlic Lovers & Caffeine Addicts



Local Brews | Alley Kat makes beer that all tastes—even caffeine addicts. PHOTO BY JON SHERNACK

SEETOURS ALLEY KAT BREWERY AND IN THE PROCESS DISCOVERS THE PERFECT BREAKFAST BEER

When I walked into the Alley Kat brewery, I was immediately greeted by a rather surprising smell: garlic. What on earth was garlic doing in a brewery?

The answer came a little while later as I chatted with Alley Kat co-owner Lavonne Herbst. Turns out that every year, the brewery bottles a few cases of beer for Sorrentino's Garlic Festival, and I happened to visit the brewery on the day that their special Garlic Lager was being bottled. Alley Kat co-founder (and Lavonne's husband) Neil Herbst smiled at us from behind the bottling line as he popped a whole garlic clove into each bottle.

Herbst explains they do occasional contracts for people in and around the city, though over the past few years they've decided to shift their focus back to their own brands. And rightly so; established in the mid-'90s, Alley Kat is Edmonton's longest running microbrewery, with a solid portfolio of award-winning craft brews. Though Alberta has seen the rise and fall of several microbreweries over the last couple decades, Alley Kat has managed to stave off elimination from the market without compromising quality.

"Canada just isn't a beer culture," Herbst says. And yet, local microbreweries like Alley Kat are the stepping stones to a society of greater beer awareness.

The Regular Kats

Alley Kat's lineup includes several different brews to appeal to different tastes. We started off with the Charlie Flint Lager, a light and refreshing beer named after the first microbrewer in Alberta. Herbst notes

that Charlie Flint "doesn't taste exactly like the major domestic brands, though it has some similarities that people can identify with."

After Charlie Flint we sampled three other regular brews: the Aprikat, an apricot-flavoured beer cooler; the Amber Ale, which walks the line between red and brown ale; and the Full Moon Pale Ale, a fairly hoppy ale just shy of being an India Pale Ale. I was especially struck by Aprikat's singular flavour—Herbst noted that you can also cook with it too. "Aprikat is great for things like salad dressings, sauces, and reductions," she told me. I also loved the lemon-citrus flavours of the Full Moon; Herbst jokingly described it as "the lemonade of beers."

The Facility

Feeling slightly buzzed, we hopped off our barstools and ventured into the back to check out the beer-making facilities. "When we built Alley Kat, we designed it for maximum flexibility," Herbst says as we dodge the hoses and puddles on the brewery floor. "That's why we don't have any hard plumbing connecting the tanks; the beer is moved around through these," she says, nudging a hose with her sneaker. "That way, we can move our tanks around or even replace them." She then indicated two large tanks, double the size of the others, in the refrigerated conditioning room. "We are currently in the process of switching from 20- to 40-hectolitre tanks."

They weren't brewing anything on the day I visited, so I had to use my imagination and picture the mash tub full of a porridge-like mixture of malted barley and water being slowly and methodically stirred by the brewmaster, then pumped into the neighbouring kettle to be mixed with hops and brought to a boil. After this, the

beer would then be pumped through the hoses we just stepped over, and into the fermenting tank where the real magic would happen.

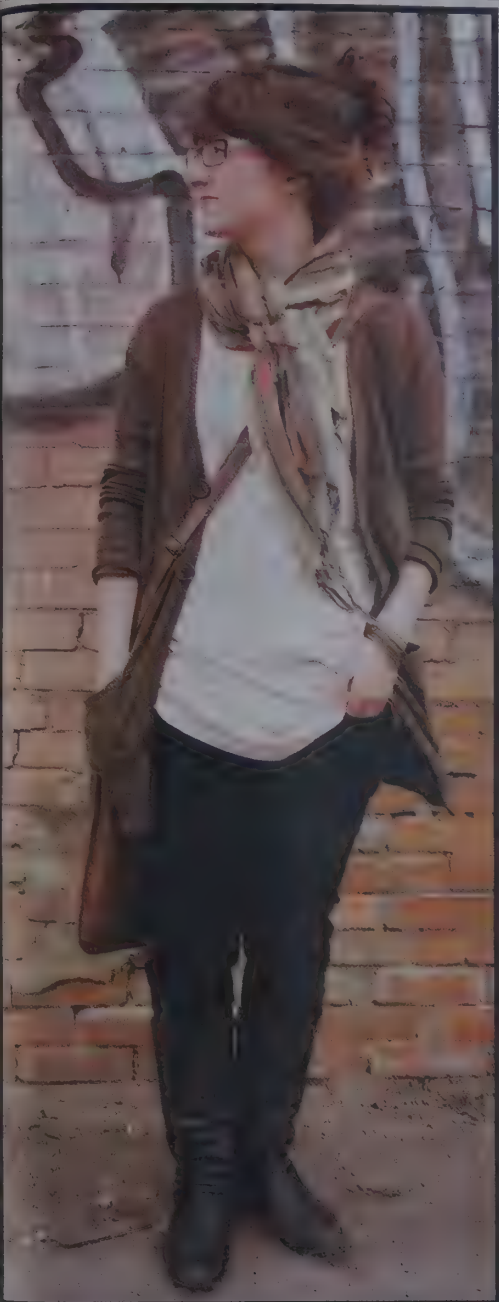
Seasonal And Specialty Brews

Alley Kat releases a new seasonal brew with each season. Due to come out in a couple weeks is a bock, a strong lager characterized by complex malty flavours and balancing hop bitterness. In the last year, the brewery released two meads—beers based on an ancient style of liquor made from fermented honey. While traditional meads are usually higher in alcohol (10 to 15 per cent), Alley Kat lowered the alcohol in their version and increased the carbonation.

"I think of these as similar to pop," Herbst says. "We are trying to get a different demographic interested in beer, and I think these really appeal to people who wouldn't normally drink beer." I can't speak for every one, but I thought the meads were great, and was thrilled to hear they will probably become part of Alley Kat's regular lineup.

"I think it's important to taste the raw ingredients, because they constitute the final product," Herbst continues, opening a few jars of barley from a shelf behind the tasting bar and inviting me to compare the taste of unmalted barley to the malted version. "A good analogy is to think of malting in terms of coffee. The more you roast the beans, the deeper and richer the flavours of the coffee. The same is true with beer."

Speaking of coffee, Alley Kat's current seasonal release is the absolutely fantastic Coffee Porter. Rich, expressive aromas leap out of the glass, and the flavours of coffee and mocha are creamy yet refreshing. Herbst assured me that it definitely has caffeine in it—and with that, I do believe I've found my new breakfast beer.



myLook

Sara Szabo | Mini-Car Aficionado
BY CHRIS LEWIS

Hair: I got it done by Debbie at Kenzee Hair Company.
Wearing: The glasses are Versace; I got them from Lenscrafters. I got the scarf somewhere in Montreal. The cardigan is from American Apparel and the tanktop is from Kika on Whyte Ave. I got the bracelet at this tiny market in Harlem, New York. The pants are from Decadence and the boots are from Steve Madden in Montreal. The bag is from Red Ribbon downtown.
Into: Going to New Zealand. My brother lives there and has asked me to housesit for a month while he's away. I'm applying for a visa so I can work at the same time. I like traveling and I collect racecars from wherever I go; just cheap, \$10 remote-control ones that I don't feel bad about destroying. I had this blonde girl on a moped. I named her Rippin' Rhonda. She took a sharp corner and got suffered some damage, but I patched her up and made her even cooler. She's busted now, though; she lost her rear wheel.

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What you need to know about

Alberta's support for the arts

The arts, in all its forms, significantly contribute to our quality of life and help to make Alberta one of the most exciting and vibrant places to live. Arts and culture are part of a healthy and balanced society. These awards emphasize the Alberta government's commitment to the newly introduced cultural policy – the Spirit of Alberta.

Recognizing excellence in the arts

To recognize the excellence of Alberta's artists, the Alberta government through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) is offering three major arts awards.

There is a new AFA Visual Arts Award in the amount of \$50,000. The Tommy Banks Performing Arts Award and the Grant MacEwan Literary Arts Award have been revised and increased to \$50,000 each.

The awards will be presented in September 2008.

Nomination deadline is May 1, 2008

If you would like more information or to nominate someone, visit www.affta.ab.ca or call (780) 427-9968 (dial 310-0000 for toll-free access).

Supporting the Arts in Your Community



Alberta BUILDING TOMORROW



15 minutes

Anthony Harychan | Owner of Baker Optical,
team member of Canadian Vision Care

Q&A WITH EDMONTONIANS BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY

You were just in Guyana handing out glasses to needy kids. Can you tell us about that?

Well, it's considered a Third World country, and eye care is very limited to poor people. I'm Guyanese, and I went back for a visit in 1995 and saw the need for it. CVC [Canadian Vision Care] has been around since 1981, so I chose to work with them there, and every

year we take a team and we go back. This time we gave out 286 pairs of reading glasses and brought back 167 prescriptions to be made up here.

Almost everyone in Canada who has vision problems can get glasses or contacts, or surgery. It's hard to imagine if we were all half-blind. How do people cope when they can't see?

They don't. We saw a lot of schoolkids and boy, I tell you, when you see their prescription you ask them, "How do you read in school?" And they hold the books right up to their eyes. Whether their parents are aware or not, I don't know, but teachers see it. They try to put them in the front of the class but how many can you fit in the front? When we get them the glasses, I try to coach them and

tell them, "Your eyes are going to hurt, you'll get headaches, but please wear them, because this is what you need to see."

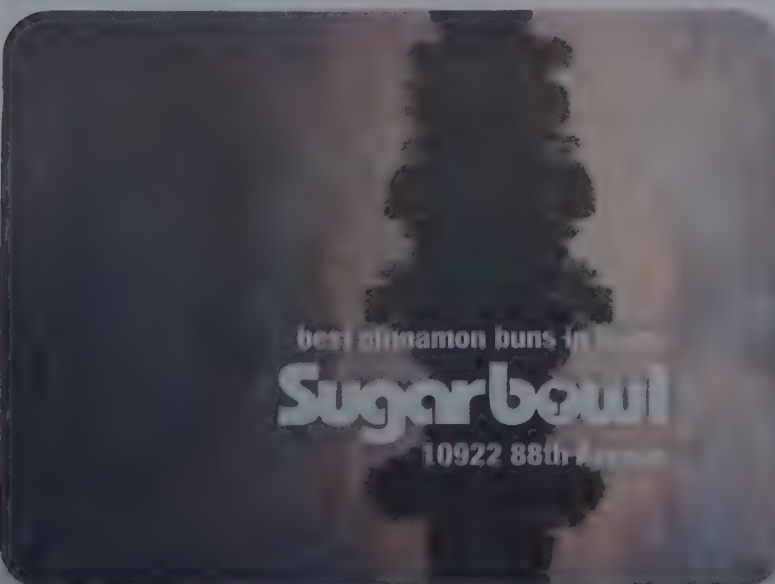
Generally speaking, are there more vision problems in Third World countries than here?

Depends on the area. There are lifestyle problems that make it worse... intermarriage, nutrition. Food especially—it's no dif-

ferent from Edmonton where kids don't get a proper meal to go to school. But they don't get a lunch program in Guyana.

So if they're poor, they can't learn, and if they can't learn, they stay poor.

Yes. What they do is they drop out and live on the street, same as here. It speaks for itself. They become criminals and they have no interest in learning.



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DINING • MEXICAN • BY SCOTT LINGLEY | 172 words

Yo Quiero Mexico Lindo



No "Taco" in Sight | "Lindo" means charming and agreeable—and Mexico Lindo is both. PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH-LAWTON

MEXICO LINDO SINGLE-HANDEDLY REDEEMS CANADA'S FAKE-CHEESE DEFAUCON OF THEIR NATIONAL CUISINE

MEXICO LINDO
(616) 404-109 Ave., 444-7151

The rest of North America owes Mexico an apology for what we've done to their food. We've taken their simple, substantial fare, enlivened with a distinctive blend of seasonings and spices, and turned it into nutritionless gut-fill issuing from the food kiosks at our amusement parks.

I'm not just talking about that overpriced tray of tortilla chips shelled with iridescent cheese they sell at hockey games and movie theatres, nor the fast-food tacos and burritos expelled entirely from aerosol cans. Bad Mexican food can also be found abundantly in reputable restaurants—tortillas stuffed with

dried-out shredded chicken and appliquéd to a dinner plate with half a pound of Canadian cheddar, sided with indifferent beans and rice, then served with a fishbowl of gaily coloured liquor slush to make it palatable. (That'll be \$25, please.)

After the way we've debased their national cuisine, we're lucky that Mexicans are still willing to come here, open restaurants that don't have "Taco" in the name, and serve us the kind of food they would eat themselves.

Which brings us to Mexico Lindo, a little family-run operation in the west end that serves authentic Mexican dishes outside the realm of the expected. By no means fancy, Mexico Lindo is definitely comfortable and clean, with a warm adobe-and-harvest gold colour scheme and a few tasteful decorative blandishments. They also stock baskets and coolers full of take-home Mexican comestibles, both the products of

their kitchen and a few imported items.

Equipped with a bottle each of Negra Modelo (\$4.95), my co-diner and I began our usual menu negotiations, though she was being a little stubborn about choosing. We both wanted to avoid the obvious choices of burrito and enchilada, but that still left plenty of selection. Our friendly server/cook/host, dressed in black cooking togs, came to our aid, endorsing the cortadillo (\$12.95) and one of the evening's specials, the pork in beer salsa (\$12.95), served with zucchini cream. (We were sorry to have missed the other special, lamb in adobo sauce.) When we asked about appetizers, she suggested our entrées, served with rice and beans, would be more than enough food, an unusual move in an industry fanatically committed to up-selling. We had hoped to explore the menu a little more extensively, but we also wanted to be good guests.

Moments after we ordered, a young server appeared with a shallow bowl in the middle of which sat a dollop of sour cream. She placed it before me and poured hot cream of zucchini soup over the dollop while my mouth watered. The first spoonful had the rich flavour that can only come from homemade stock, creamy but with a liberal dash of salt and hints of cumin and lime. Nice.

The soup was quickly devoured (I was forced to share) and followed

by our entrées, which came with a basket of steaming tortillas. At first, I wasn't sure which was which—both featured cubes of meat in sauce with a pool of black beans and a neat mound of rice. One taste confirmed that I had the pork in beer salsa in front of me. The gravy around it, thickened by tender chunks of potato, was dark and aromatic with cerveza and Mexican spices, but didn't overwhelm the flavour of the pork. The slow-cooked beans were likewise earthy, subtle and satisfying.

All the same, I think I preferred my co-diner's cortadillo with its chopped Alberta beef stewed in tomatoes, sweet peppers, mushrooms, and bacon. The smokiness imparted by the bacon and the varied textures per-

fectly complemented the succulent beef, especially when scooped onto a warm tortilla with some rice and sprinkled with a little of the house's homemade hot sauce.

Plates mopped and, cervezas drained, we had to agree we'd been presented with just the right amount of food. But my co-diner, an avid hot sauce fan, wanted to take some liquid spice home. Our friendly host offered to bring us a sample before we bought, most likely with the knowledge that once we tasted the homemade totopos (crunchy tortilla chips seasoned with lime and pepper), we'd need a bag of those too. She was right again.

BURGERS

MOTORAUENT (12406-66 ST) Although the food is relatively good, the real reason to visit Motorauent is to see the physical structure of the place. To say it's unique hardly does it justice. Unless you've been before, you're likely never had an experience like Motorauent.

★★★★☆

CAFÉ

MILL CREEK CAFÉ (9562-82 AVE) If you're visiting Edmonton and staying downtown, walk south down the stairs at the MacDonald, cross the bridge, and head into Mill Creek ravine. Follow the path, go up the hill at the Mill Creek Pool parking lot and wander right to the Mill Creek Café for a light bite to eat. That way, you'll experience both the great geography and the small-town hospitality we're so proud of.

★★★★☆

CASUAL ELEGANT

BACON (6509-112 AVE) This great little bohemian-chic restaurant offers a limited choice of familiar (ish) items with some innovative twists. By pairing locally produced items with some deft hands in the kitchen, they manage to pull off simple organic dishes that are worth remembering.

★★★★☆

CHINESE

NEW TAN TAN (1033-97 ST) If you're a dim sum veteran, you'll probably be happy enough with the New Tan Tan and its somewhat "tugged" style. But if you're new to this type of venue and are looking for dim sum for dum-dums, you might want to try someplace a little less...haggard?

★★★★☆

EUROPEAN

CONTINENTAL TREAT (10560-82 AVE) Definitely not the type of place that hopes to dazzle you with its creativity—the menu consists mostly of standard (somewhat plain) preparations of Eastern European favourites. It's the type of restaurant that used to set the standard for high-class dining, and it can still be a nice treat.

★★★★☆

FINE DINING

HARDWARE GRILL (9698 JASPER AVE) Arguably one of the best restaurants in Edmonton. Be warned, however: If you go, it's an undertaking. Definitely not the type of place you just pop into with friends on a whim. Be prepared to fast for at least a week before going, and hibernate afterwards: the portions are way too big (and are priced accordingly).

★★★★☆

MADISON'S GRILL (10053 JASPER AVE) Without a doubt, one of the top restaurants in Edmonton. The warm and comfortable surroundings make this a perfect place for a romantic getaway, or for that special occasion.

★★★★☆

FRENCH

LA TABLE DE RENOIR (10046-101A AVE) I can't think of a better way to spend your lunch hour or a warm summer evening than sitting on La Table de Renoir's patio enjoying one of their traditionally prepared Provencal classics. A nice touch of café culture here in downtown Edmonton.

★★★★☆

HOTEL

HOTEL MACDONALD (CONFEDERATION LOUNGE) (10065-100 ST) Wondering whatever happened to the grand old tradition of hotel dining? It's all the Hotel Macdonald. But if you're not up to dropping some large coin on a meal, pop by the Mac's Confederation Room for a glass of wine and a bite to eat. It's a guilty pleasure everyone should experience once.

★★★★☆

INDIAN

TANDOORI GRILL EXPRESS & MONTREAL DELI (6508-75 ST) Despite the odd menu, these folks are capable of some fine cuisine. If you go, spend some time chatting with the staff and see if they can prepare any of your favourites. If so, you just might find that you have a new favourite tandoori restaurant.

★★★★☆

ITALIAN

SANTOS PIZZA AND STEAK (10821-95 ST) Excellent place for a lunchtime sandwich in the heart of Edmonton's little Italy. It's not all fancy schmancy and uptight, but then again it isn't all fancy schmancy and uptight. They offer good standard Italian fare, prepared well at reasonable prices. What's not to like?

★★★★☆

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Booklover Goes Bollywood

THIS WEEK'S SOBUCKER PUTS TOGETHER AN INDIAN-THEMED EVENING, BUT COULDN'T AVOID HER LIBRARY FINES

\$14: Broad Valley Books

I start off my weekend at this great used bookstore just off Whyte Ave. After perusing their surprisingly good selection of secondhand literature (they put Edmonton's other used book stores to shame), I take my newest library additions to the till, where I chat with the clerk about beatniks while sneering at the Civil Empire across the street. After exchanging a few Kerouac and Ginsberg quotes, I grab a couple Sweet Tarts from the dish beside the register and head out.



\$5: Pepperoni Sticks

With a bulging bag of books in hand, I trundle over to the Strathcona Farmers' Market. I snag a bundle of pepperoni sticks to munch while I survey the stalls, looking for unique, handcrafted birthday presents—or maybe even a few early Christmas presents, since I swore last year that I would never again leave it until the last week. Bad breath be

damned—these sticks are powerfully addictive.

\$21.63: India Bazaar

Though the pepperoni has curbed my appetite for now, I find myself dreaming of something exotic for dinner. I decide to visit the India Bazaar (4514-118 Ave) to pick up some ingredients for a homemade

Indian feast. Though I often cheat and buy the powder, you can't beat the complexity of a curry made from freshly crushed and blended spices.

After winding my way through aisles of saffron and cardamom, I escape with the makings of a mighty

fine tofu curry, complete with vegetable pakoras and naan bread.

\$4: Library Fines

As I head home, I remember those outstanding library fines (sometimes a week just isn't enough time to watch four DVDs). I drop by the Stanley A. Milner branch to pay them, and while I'm there I decide I might as well complete my Indian-themed meal with an evening of Bollywood.

I use the computer database to find some promising titles, since I can never seem to find what I'm looking for on the shelf. In the end, I choose *Bunty aur Babli*—nothing like the capers of a pair of Bollywood cartoon artists to make for an entertaining evening.

\$6.45: Afternoon Tea

After a leisurely Sunday morning, I quench my thirst with an afternoon tea at Steeps. I prefer the University campus location over the one downtown, as I find the latter a little too cramped. I stretch out with one of my recently-purchased novels in an armchair by the window, enjoying a single pot of jasmine dragon ball green tea and a plain buttered scone.

It occurs to me that I went from India to England in less than 24 hours; I flip a page of Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* and reflect that this isn't really a big leap.

Okay, so I'm a dollar over... I promise next week I'll stay on budget by remembering to return my library material on time.

Wanna try it? Send your idea for 50BUCK to stories@see.greatwest.ca.

EVENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY FASHION PARTY MAR 29 (LATE) 5:30-11:30 PM. 10248-106 ST. Edmonton-based fashion designer Stanley Carroll celebrates with the launch of his 2008 Spring/Summer collection "A Stranger in a Strange Land." Tickets at TKL.

ALBERTA STUDENT FILM FEST MAR 28-29 METRO CINEMA, 1610-1612, 10248-106 ST. Theatre screenings and awards presentation for student made films. Presented by the U of A Society for Creative Filmmaking. Info: www.myspace.com/albertastudentfilmfest.

A TASTE OF ALBERTA MAR 27 7-9:30 PM. SUTTON PLACE BALLROOM, 10235-101 ST. Fundraiser in support of the Edmonton Jazz Festival. Jazz, Blues, and Edmonton Jazz Orchestra. Tickets: \$55 at TKL or the Edmonton Jazz Festival Society 990-0272.

THE CARROT ARTS MARKET EVERY SAT, 10 AM-2 PM THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 9151-118 Ave. Artists and artisans from the community and beyond share unique gifts, crafts, and artwork. Info: www.thecarrotart.com.

CITY-WIDE TALENT SHOW APR 10, 11 & 12 STANLEY MILNER LIBRARY THEATRE, CHURCHILL SQUARE. Contestants aged 5-17 will show off their various talents. Presented by the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. Info: 478-4728.

DINING OUT FOR LIFE APR 24 VARIOUS LOCATIONS. Participating restaurants will donate 25% of food profits that day helps those living with HIV/AIDS. Info and participating restaurants at www.diningoutforlife.com.

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL BEER FEST APR 4-5 SHAW COMMUNITY CENTRE. Beer tasting, music and merchandise. Tickets at TM.

THE GOOD MEDICINE FILM FESTIVAL MONTHLY SCREENINGS STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 7 CHURCHILL SQUARE. APR 12, 2 pm "Away from Mr. May" 10, 2 pm "Seducing Dr. Lewis." Various health-related films presented throughout the semester. Info: www.ahummedu.ca/Alberta.

HAIRCUTS FOR HAITI MAR 28 6-9 PM. URBAN ROOTS, 10418-82 Ave. Haircuts by donation, all proceeds go to a medical mission trip to provide an Open Air Medical clinic in Haiti. Info: Stephanie, 461-0182.

"HOMELESS" FUNDRAISER APR 5 WESTBURY THEATRE, TRANSALTA ARTS BARS, 103 ST. & 84 Ave. Silent auction, cocktails, and dinner followed by a performance of Jeremy Baumung's show "Homeless." In support of the Adm. Theatre Association. Tickets: \$50, \$40 for a table of 6 at the Adm. Theatre. Box office: THE MAYOR'S CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS APR 7, 7 PM. RECEPTION 5 PM. PRESENTATION 7 PM. WINSTON PEAR CENTRE. Awards presentation and performances by local artists. Tickets at Winspear Box Office.

MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST APR 16 7:30-9 AM. Special guest Phil Callaway along with other business and professionals pray for the Mayor, Councilors and Civic Leaders. Tickets: \$30, \$20 Table of 10; register at www.prayerbreakfast.ca.

POP CULTURE FAIR MAR 30 10 AM-5 PM. EDMONTON AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE, 11410 KINGSWAY AVE. Records, toys, comics and other memorabilia. Admission: \$5, Seniors and Children free. Info: www.popculturefair.com.

SPRING BREAK AT THE LIBRARY 2008 MAR 31-APR 5 VARIOUS EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BRANCHES. Drop in and registration programs for children throughout the week. Info: www.ed.ca.

THE STORIES CITY NEW MEDIA & COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART APR 4 NOON-1:30 PM. ENTERPRISE SQUARE, 10230 JASPER AVE. Artists Giles Lane and Orlagh Woods will discuss their art projects and practices, including Urban Tapestries, Storybooks, and their Diffusion Book-generator. Free Admission.

STRAWBERRY TEA DANCE APR 12 2-5 PM. WOODCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE, 19105-115 Ave. Performance by Rolanda Lee and Her Gentlemen of Swing. Tickets: \$15. 888-5043.

IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB 2ND AND 4TH THU EVERY MONTH 8 PM. SEP-MAY VARIOUS LOCATIONS. Informative presentations, speakers, workshops, outings, monthly and year-end competitions. Check website for locations. Upcoming 08-09 Season, will be at Pleasantview Community Hall. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Info: www.imagesab.com or Sheila, 469-9776; Murty, 452-5224.

INNOVATORS' NETWORKING CLUB THU 11:30 AM-1 PM. CAFE SELECT SOUTH, 109 ST. & 84 Ave. BUSINESS NETWORKING GROUP, MIXER, AND CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. INFO: DWAYNE, 463-6240 OR DWAYNE@BIBAHAKEN.CA.

NORATONS TOASTMASTERS CLUB THU 7-8:45 PM. LONDERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY, LONDERBURY HALL, 137 AVE. & 66 ST. Learn to speak clearly and with confidence in a supportive group. Info: www.noratons.com.

NORWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB THU 8-10 PM. 10425 KINGSWAY AVE. Improve public speaking and communications skills in a fun and educational environment. Info: 465-9934 or www.norwoodtoastmasters.org.

POWER SPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED 7-9 PM. GRANT MACFARLANE COLLEGE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, RM 437. Learn to speak with confidence in a supportive environment. Info: 432-0993 or www.powerspeakers.ca.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES Wednesday drop-in meetings, providing resources and information on self-esteem, mental health, and employment. Men welcome to attend. Info: 496-5930.

TOURETTE SYNDROME SUPPORT 1ST WED EVERY MONTH (OCT-NINE), 7 PM. ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD, 8525-101 ST. NORTH DOOR. Meeting for TS adults and

#202, 8627 RUE MARIE-ANNE GABOURY. Info: Godfrey, 469-0399.

FRENCH MEETUP Informal conversation group, all levels of French speakers welcome. Info: french.meetup.com/236 or 720-5169.

GREAT EXPEDITIONS, HOSTEL TRAVEL 2ND MON EVERY MONTH 7:30 PM. HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL, 10640-41 AVE. APR 14 African Safari, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi. Everyone welcome. For presentation schedule or info: Sylvia, 454-6216 or 455-6161.

HIP MAMAS MEET-UP Young mothers and their babies meet several times a week. Free to join, plenty of friends to be made. Info: hipmamas.meetup.com/151.

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB 2ND THU EVERY MONTH 8 PM. WOODS' 2ND FL., 11723 JASPER AVE. Cross-dresses, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. 387-3343 or groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions.

IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB 2ND AND 4TH THU EVERY MONTH 8 PM. SEP-MAY VARIOUS LOCATIONS. Informative presentations, speakers, workshops, outings, monthly and year-end competitions. Check website for locations. Upcoming 08-09 Season, will be at Pleasantview Community Hall. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Info: www.imagesab.com or Sheila, 469-9776; Murty, 452-5224.

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parents of TS kids. Info: 1-866-824-9764.

UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED 7-8:30 PM. RM 601, NORQUEST COLLEGE, 10275-108 ST. Improve listening, speaking, and overall communication skills. Info: Roger, 454-3720, Theresa, 488-4098, or adamskis@telus.net.

WEST-END TOASTMASTER CLUB THU 6:45-9 PM. JASPER PLACE LIBRARY, 9010-156 ST. Friendly environment of personal growth and mutual support. Info: 495-5424.

WOW-WIRED ON WORDS SUN 11 AM-1:15 THREE BANANAS CAFE, CHURCHILL SQUARE. An eclectic eclectic writing group welcoming both professional and amateur writers. Suggested donation \$10. Monthly meetings. Info: bewell.2006@gmail.com.

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH 5 PM. REMEDY CAFE, 8637-109 ST. For discussion topics and suggested readings go to www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=3559275104.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 1025-101 ST. 479-1999. A range of services for members of the Native community, including a free monthly lunch Fridays at noon, employment and Public Health information, counseling referrals and one-on-one support. AADAC & Legal Aid referrals, low cost or free beds, housing and clothing referrals. Info: 479-1999.

CLUB LUULU LULULEMON 10544-82 Ave. Weekly activities like yoga, pilates, etc. Info: www.lululemon.com, 435-9363 or whyte-community@lululemon.com.

COMMUNITY WEIGHT-LOSS CHALLENGE VARIOUS LOCATIONS. 6-week course advising diet and active lifestyle. Info: Carla, 966-0185.

CONSTELLATION EVERY 1ST & 3RD WED 7 PM. 10437-37 AVE. A unique healing process, transforming past burdens into positive affirmations. Info: 967-9162 or constellation-currents.ca.

EXPLORE STILLNESS WED APR 9 & 23, 7-9 PM. UNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 12310-106 AVE. With Eckhart Tolle. Learn to release nagging thoughts with ability to perceive sacredness of oneself and the natural world. "Stillness Amidst the World" video/discussion/meditation workshop. Info: 913-6466, or www.unitedunited.com.

FREE YOGA CLASS EVERY SUN 6-7 PM. LULULEMON ATHLETICA KINGSWAY AVE. Levels welcome, new styles each week, mats provided. Info: 471-1200 or kingswaygarden-community@lululemon.com.

GENTLE YOGA RADHA YOGA 9:45-10:45 AM. Weekly classes in small group settings. Sunday Satsang (by donation). Call for schedule and fees. Info: 432-3363 or www.radha.org.

LIVING POSITIVE THU 7-9 PM. SUITE 50, 9912-106 ST. Confidential space where POF people can discuss and share common issues of concern. A peer-driven AIDS service organization, providing direct support to people living with HIV in Alberta. Info: 488-7168 or edmontonlivingpositive.ca.

LOTUS SOUL GYM YOGA STUDIO 10518-82 Ave. Multidisciplinary yoga studio offering drop-in and registered classes in hatha, vinyasa flow, Pilates, yoga for runners, pre-natal, post-natal, mommy & me, and partner workshops. All levels welcome. Info: www.lotussoulgym.com, 434-9642 or info@lotussoulgym.com.

MADELINE SANAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH 10 AM-5 PM. FACULTE SAINT-JEAN, 8405-91 ST. 3-18. An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. French, English and African languages. Admission free for members, membership \$10. Info: 490-9332.

MEDITATION AND BUDDHIST TEACHINGS GADEN SAMTEN LUN TIBETAN BUDDHIST MEDITATION SOCIETY, 11403-101 ST. Meditation and Buddhist teachings by resident teacher, Tibetan Buddhist monk Kushok Lobzang Dharmcho. Beginners Tue 7 pm. Intermediate Wed 7 pm. Advanced practices Sun 11 am. Info: 479-0014 or www.gadenstanterling.org.

MS ACTIVE NOW 10:00, 9405-50 ST. Recreation and physical wellness programs. Info: 471-3034.

NIA TECHNIQUE APRIL 4, 5:30-6:30 PM. KNOX METROPOLITAN CHURCH. A blend of dance, martial arts and yoga. Info: Gloria, 434-8137 or glori@shaw.ca.

RADHA YOGA VARIOUS LOCATIONS Classes include gentle hatha, hridaya yoga/effortless hatha, dream yoga, kundalini/power of choice and meditation. Info: 432-3363.

RAJA YOGA MEDITATION 8:00, 1032-105 ST. In association with Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization. Info: www.bkwsu.org or 425-1050.

RIVER VALLEY RUNNERS THU & THU 5:15-6:45 PM. RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231-100 Ave. Coached training for running on Edmonton's extensive river valley trails. Includes warm up and cooldown. Info: www.rivervalleyrunners.net or 471-1909.

THE SECRET OF BREATH WORKSHOP MARCH 29, 9 AM-7 PM. UNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 12310-106 AVE. Breathe to heal past and emotions. Info: www.unitedunited.com or Yvonne, 913-6466. Register: unityunitedunited.com.

TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY THU 6:30-7:30 PM. ALLENDALE COMMUNITY LEAGUE, 6303-105A ST. Weight loss support and information. First meeting is free. Info: 479-1999.

TOPS4990@hotmail.com.

TRANQUILITY MEDITATION WED 7 PM. 10502-70 AVE. Tibetan tradition. Free, beginners welcome. Instruction available. Info: Lama Ani Kunsang, 633-6157 or www.karmatsailing.org.

VEGETARIANS OF ALBERTA Monthly events, potluck dinners, and dine-out nights for vegetarians and vegans. Monthly newsletter includes articles on health, environment, and compassion. Info: events@vofa.ca or www.vofa.ca.

LEARNING

AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES 10725 JASPER AVE. Movement the Afro-Caribbean dance ensemble offers a variety of African dance classes at all levels. Info: 415-5211 or www.movementdance.com.

AFRICAN DRUMMING MAR 31, 6:15-7:45 BEGINNERS WORKSHOP & 8:00-9:30 INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP. RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231-100 AVE. With the Drum Brothers, Matthew Marsalek and Lawrence Duncan. Admission: \$25. Adults. \$12 Children at the door or in advance at 439-6103.

ARGENTINE TANGO CLASSES THU (JAN-APR), 7 PM. ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD SCHOOL, 8525-101 ST. With Cristina and Vincente. Info: 905-8505 or members.shaw.ca/tangopool/home.htm.

ARTIST SUCCESS PROGRAM APR 9-30, EVERY WED. Learn to match your creative talent with business strategies to get your art. Info: 439-0521.

BEDOUIN BEATS MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE 2ND FLOOR, 12316 JASPER AVE. For all skill levels. Info: 722-9773 or edmontonbeatstheatre.com.

DROP-IN ART FOR THE ARTIST AT HEART PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PEARSON ST. ST. ALBERT. Info: Glenda, 460-4310 or ahglenda@telus.net.

EDMONTON CHESS CLUB Learning and playing opportunities for students and families at Edmonton Chess Club and other locations in the city. Info: 474-2318 or rovingchess-nuts@shaw.ca.

EDMONTON WEAVERS' GUILD Offering classes on weaving, spinning and various workshops. Info: Sonja, 425-1151 or ewg@interbaun.com.

EDMONTON WRITERS' CENTRE STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 7 CHURCHILL SQUARE. A creative space for writers of all genres and levels. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-9 pm. Sat 9 am-6 pm. Sun 1-5 pm. Info: 496-7000.

FAMA WORKSHOPS The Film and Video Arts Society offer one-night workshops twice a month in a variety of media activities. Info: www.fava.ca or 429-1671.

FLAMENCO LESSONS SUN & MON 2:30-3:30 PM. Judith and Oscar Jose Garcia teach both Flamenco dance & guitar. Info: 1-800-349-4843 or ojgarcia@telusplanet.net.

CREATIVITY WORKSHOP APR 16 MAY 21 AND JUN 18, 7-9 PM. UNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 12310-106 AVE. Workshops to develop tools to compose songs, music, poetry and writings. No prior experience needed. Taught by Cindy Zubly. Info: 913-6466.

HARCOURT HOUSE ART CLASSES JAN-APR A variety of low-cost classes specializing in drawing, painting, and other mediums; taught by professional artists and educators. Info: www.harcourthouse.ca or 426-4180.

HIDDEN LANGUAGE APR 6 AND APR 27 HATHA YOGA workshops combining yoga poses, reflection and journaling. Info: 432-3363, radhayaoga@shaw.ca or www.radha.org.

HORTICULTURE CLASSES MAR-MAY: DEVONIAN BOTANICAL GARDEN, HWY 60 MAR 28 & MAY 10, 7-9:30 pm "Beautiful Annuals." Every THU, MAR 25-MAY 3, 7-9 pm "Masterful Annual Identification." Every THU, MAR 10 & 30 pm "Pruning." 10 am-2:30 pm. "The Home Vegetable Garden." APR 6, 10 am-2 pm. "The Purple Martin." Registration/Info: 987-2004.

LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION 8200, 10116-105 Ave. Recruiting volunteers to help adults develop literacy and math skills on an ongoing basis. Info: Mary, 429-0675.

KARATE INSTRUCTION Classes for kids over 10, teens, and adults. Info: www.manitowasun.com or 975-6910.

KITA NO TAIKYO JAPANESE DRUMMING WORKSHOPS Schedules, info, and registration: www.kitanotaiyo.ca or 431-0300.

MARS HILL CENTRE 88318-104 ST., 425-0022 Classes and workshops on the recovery process. Registration on a sliding scale, based on participant's income. Info: www.marshallcentre.com.

MEDIA MAG WORKSHOPS EDMONTON CHAPTER OF COMMERCIAL, 8600, 9990 JASPER AVE. Info: www.mediamag.ca or 695-5675.

METRO CONTINUING EDUCATION 8205-90 Ave. Courses start in Jan/Feb subjects include dance, fitness, sports, massage, spirituality, and more. Class and schedules available in the Free Metro Class Calendar, available throughout the city. Info: 428-1111 or www.metrocontinuingeducation.ca.

MINERVA MOSAICS ART CLASSES CITY ARTS CENTRE, 10943-84 Ave. A range of mosaic art classes for beginners and intermediate. Info: www.minervamosaics.com or 439-1957.

MOMMY & ME BELLY DANCING CLASSES Belly dance classes and parties for adults and children. Info: 429-5710 or belladance@telus.net.

NORTHERN RIVER KARATE SCHOOL THU, THU & SAT BELLEVILLE COMMUNITY HALL, 11540-7 AVE. Weekly classes in Karate, Kobudo, Yoga, Qi Gong, and Siting Meditation. Info: www.threethistles.com.

HIGHLIGHT • SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT



The Fruits of Democracy? U.S. policy toward Latin American countries like Venezuela aren't exactly helpful, says filmmaker John Pilger. PHOTO SUPPLIED

War on Democracy • Mar 28 (7pm) • Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Documentary filmmaker John Pilger presents his first feature film, an exploration of how American political and economic intervention in Latin America—and in the lives of Latin Americans themselves, some of the poorest people in the world—has destabilized the region and prevented serious democracy from gaining a foothold.

PRE-SCHOOL INDOOR SOCCER SAT (NOV-JUN), 9-30 AM-NOON. SACRED HEART SCHOOL GYM, 96 ST & 108 AVE. Ages 2-7, girls and boys. Basic soccer skills, taught by FIFA certified coach. Info: Tony, 420-0760.

TAI-CHI APRIL 3, 6-7 PM. KNOX METROPOLITAN CHURCH. Fitness program using drumming and dance. Info: Gloria, 424-8137 or glg@shaw.ca.

QUEER

AGAPE EDUCATION FACILITY, U OF A CAMPUS. Focus group on sex and gender differences in education and culture. Pre-service and practicing teachers, community members welcome. Info: andrea.grace@ualberta.ca or 493-0772.

EPS/LGBTQ LIAISON COMMITTEE The EPS/LGBTQ Liaison Committee is composed of a variety of concerned lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, queer, allied community members, and police officers. Email questions or concerns to epslgbt@ualberta.ca. All inquiries treated with confidentiality and respect. To report a hate or bias motivated crime, contact the EPS Hate & Bias Crime Unit, 421-3489.

INSIDE/OUT U of A Campus-based organization for LGBTQ faculty, graduates, academic & staff. Straight allies welcome. Monthly meetings. Info: kwells@ualberta.ca or mwonham@ualberta.ca

PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 AVE. 488-3234. Hours: Tue-Fri 1-10 pm, Sat 12-6:30 pm. Drop-in library, and community internet services are available. Online newsletter: www.pridecentredmonton.org.

TEAM EDMONTON A volunteer operated, non-profit society for members and friends of the GLBT community, offering well organized and fun sporting events and other recreational activities within a positive social framework. Info: www.teamedmonton.ca.

WOMONSPACE Non-profit lesbian organization for Edmonton and surrounding area. Organized monthly activities. Memberships available, including monthly newsletter. Confidentiality assured. Info: www.gaycanada.com/womon-space, womospace@gmail.com, or 482-1794.

YOUTHSPACE/PRIDE CENTRE OF EDMONTON, 9540-111 AVE. An after-school drop-in program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-identified, queer, questioning and allied (GLBTQQA) youth under 25. Open Tue-Sat 3-7 pm. Info: brendan@pridecentredmonton.org or 488-3234.

DRUGS A PROBLEM? COCAINE ANONYMOUS CAN HELP!
425-2715 • www.ca-northab.org

SEE IT JUST WORKS

TO BOOK AN AD
430-9003

NORTHERN TITANS GLBT BOWLING LEAGUE 7 PM. GATEWAY LANES & RECREATION CENTRE, #100, 3416 GATEWAY BLVD. \$15 per person. Info: bowling@teamedmonton.ca.

SINGLE LESBIANS OVER 40 Women's social group. Monthly gatherings for conversation over tea and coffee. Info: singlewomen40plus@hotmail.com.

SUIT UP & SHOW UP NOON. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. AA Big Book study. Info: 488-3234.

YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH 7-9 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, straight, and questioning youth (up to 25) gather to have fun and learn in a safe, supportive environment. Info: yuy@shaw.ca.

SUNDAY

ARCTIC FRONTRUNNERS 10 AM Runners of all levels of ability welcome. Runs are typically 6-8 km, usually 44-60 minutes. Coffee afterwards. Info on venues and other runs during the week: running@teamedmonton.ca, or 436-7892.

BALLROOM DANCING 7:30-8:30 PM All gender combinations welcome. Salsa, rumba, waltz, jive. Info: 459-3281 or ballroom@teamedmonton.ca.

EDMONTON PRIME TIMERS (EPT) 2ND SUN MOST MORNINGS, 2:30 PM. UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 10804-115 ST. Older gay men and admirers meet for a social period, short business meeting, followed by guest speaker, discussion panel, or potluck supper. Special interest groups meet for other activities throughout the month. EPT is affiliated with Prime Times World Wide. Info: edmontont@yahoocanada.ca or www.primetimerswww.org/edmonton.

HATHA YOGA 2-3:30 PM. LION'S BREATH YOGA. Introductory level class, free. No previous experience required. Bring yoga mat or towel and water. Info: yoga@teamedmonton.ca.

LAMBDA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH 7 PM. GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH, 11148-84 AVE. Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and heterosexual Christians. All denominations and faiths welcome. Info: 887-8611 or lambdac@church@shaw.ca.

NEW TALKING WITH PRIDE 7 PM. PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 AVE. Men's social and discussion group, facilitated by Rob Wells. Info: robwells20@hotmail.com or 488-3234.

SOUL OUTING 3RD SUN EVERY MONTH, 7 PM. ROBERTSON-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH, 10209 123 ST. GLBT-focused alternative worship. Info: 482-1587 or email: jpienscroft@nwkc.org.

SOUTHWESTER-STEINHAUER UNITED CHURCH 10 AM. 10204-19 AVE. Welcomes all sexual orientations. Info: 987-4974.

SPIRITUAL LIVING CENTRE Info: www.spiritualivingcentre.com or 989-3752.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH 10 AM. 11526-76 AVE. All orientations welcome for Sunday service. Info: 436-1555 or www.affirmited.ca.

TRANS EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUP 1ST & 3RD SUN EVERY MONTH, 2 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Provides support and education for all transsexual, transgendered, intersexed, two-spirited, and questioning individuals. Info: www.albertatrans.org or 488-3234.

WOMONSPACE BOARD MEETING 1ST SUN EVERY MONTH, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.

MONDAY

CURLING WITH PRIDE MON (UNTIL MAR 17), 7:15 PM. GRANITE CURLING CLUB, 8620-107 ST. Info: curling@teamedmonton.ca.

HIV SUPPORT GROUP 2ND MON EVERY MONTH, 7-9 PM.

PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Info: Richard, 488-3234 or richard@pridecentredmonton.org.

TUESDAY

FREEDOM METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON 7:15 PM. 10086 MACDONALD DR. A church for all people. Info: 429-2321.

GLBT SENIORS DROP IN 1:30-3:30 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Social meeting for seniors in GLBT genders. Info: Jeff, 488-3234.

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB NAUT POOL. 11762-106 ST. Recreational and competitive swimming and coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue (8-9 pm) and Thu (7:30-8:30 pm), followed by social meeting. Info: swimming@teamedmonton.ca.

OUTREACH 5 PM. HERITAGE ROOM, ATHABASCA HALL, U OF A CAMPUS. U of A based group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight-but-friendly students, staff, and faculty. Open in the community outside the U of A. Info: www.outreach.pixielmighy.com or outreach@ualberta.ca.

PELAG EDMONTON 1ST TUE EVERY MONTH, 7 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Support meeting for parents, families, and friends of GLBT individuals. Info: 488-3234.

STEP AEROBICS 5 PM. AEROBICS STUDIO, KINSMEN SPORTS CENTRE, 9100 WALTERDALE HILL. Info: step@teamedmonton.ca.

TRANS SUPPORT GROUP 2ND TUE EVERY MONTH, 7:30-9:30 PM. GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH MEETING ROOM, 11148-84 AVE. Education and support group for trans-identified and questioning people. Info: 718-1412 or (tqalliance)@shaw.ca.

TTIQ ALLIANCE 2ND TUE EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.

PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Support meeting for transgender, transsexual, intersex, and questioning individuals. Providing education, advocacy and support for men, women, and youth.

WEDNESDAY

EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION 2ND WED EVERY MONTH. Casual networking with the GLBT business community. Locations listed on www.edmontonrba.org.

FREE TO BE RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL 8-10 PM. 101 AMISKWACY ACADEMY \$50 per season. Info: revolveball@teamedmonton.ca.

OPEN DOOR CLUB 5 PM. GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE, CITY CENTRE CAMPUS, RM 6-217 Social group for GLBTQ students, faculty, and friends all GMCC.

TEAM EDMONTON BADMINTON 6 PM. OLIVER SCHOOL GYM, 10227-118 ST. Women's drop-in recreational badminton, all levels welcome. \$30 for the season, \$5 drop-in. Info: 455-9670.

YOURS, MINE, OURS AND US (YMOU) 1ST AND 3RD WED EVERY MONTH. Support group for GLBT parents, partners, and friends. Info: 426-6311 or 415-5434.

YOUTH THEATRE PROJECT 7 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Using theatre to increase awareness and reduce homophobic bullying. No theatre experience required. Info: Emily, 488-3234 or emily@pridecentredmonton.org.

BATH HOUSES

DOWN UNDER 1224 JASPER AVE. 482-7960 Open 7/47. Info: www.gayedmonton.com

STEAMWORKS 1145 JASPER AVE. 451-5554 Open 7/47

EDMONTON'S INTERNATIONAL BEERFEST

Celebrating the appreciation of beer from around the world

April 4-6, 2008

Show Conference Centre

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LIQUOR STORE

What Alberta visual artists need to know about

submitting work to the provincial art collection

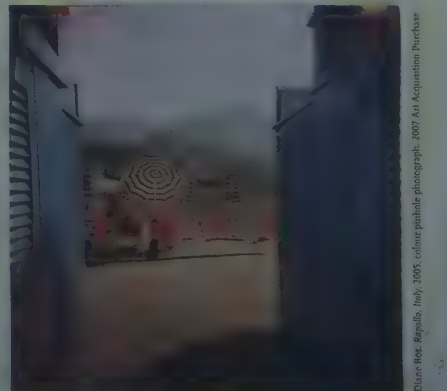
The Alberta Foundation for the Arts is looking for new art to add to its collection

The provincial art collection is shared with Albertans through many public programs and venues. It helps to foster a greater appreciation and awareness of the visual arts in Alberta.

If your artwork is **not** already included in the provincial collection, please submit your work for consideration.

Submission deadline is April 1, 2008

To learn more, or to download an application form, visit www.affta.ab.ca/art-collection.shtml or call (780) 427-9968 (dial 310-0000 for toll-free access).



Diare, 806, Reggale, Italy, 2005, colour pinhole photograph, 2007 Art Acquisition Purchase

Alberta Foundation for the Arts

SE **THE MOST FABULOUS CONTEST IN THE HISTORY OF GAMES!**

Play Vinyl Hunter, name the
MYSTERY MUSICAL ARTIST & WIN!

THIS WEEK'S PRIZE
\$5!

Clockwork Orange Juice
Clockwork Orange Juice 7-9 a.m. Wed's on CJSR 88.5

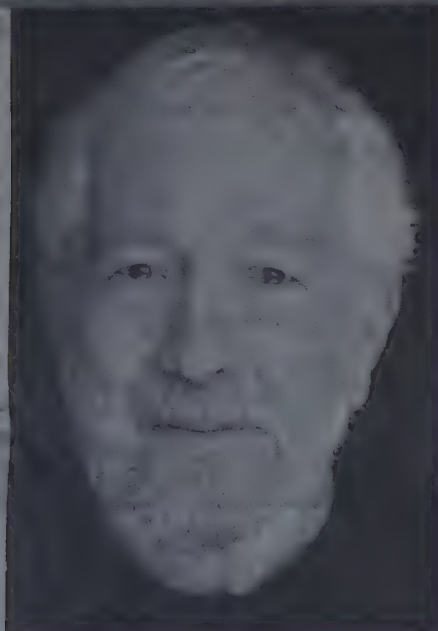


**No Competition
Just Collaboration**

friday APRIL 4TH
A TEXTBOOK TRAGEDY
WITH HUNDRED ACRE WOOD (REUNION)
SAVANNAH | SNIG | PARIS ON A GOOD DAY | VESPERTINE BATTLESCENE

saturday APRIL 5TH
FAREWELL TO FREEWAY
WITH SHOTGUN RULES | KINCAIDE
CHANGE METHODOICAL | YOU ARE A WEAPON | CAPTURE THE HILLS
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM BOTH NIGHTS
AVENUE SKATEPARK 9030 118TH AVENUE | ALL AGES WELCOME

MARCH 28 | NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA PRESENTS:



One of Canada's most illustrious filmmakers, Allan King has been creating documentary and dramatic cinema for over 50 years.

Join us for an exclusive filmmaking master-class with this renowned director.

Allan King

"There are few filmmakers whose impact has been central to the medium but Allan King is unquestionably one of them."
Piers Handling (Toronto Film Festival)

A DOCUMENTARY MASTER CLASS

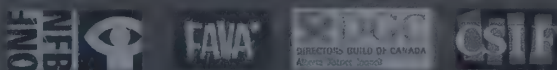
FRI, MARCH 28 | 6:00PM - 9:00PM
SUTTON PLACE HOTEL | WINTERLAKE ROOM
10235 - 101 STREET
\$10 / NON-MEMBERS
FREE FOR FAVA, DGC MEMBERS
SPACE LIMITED, RSVP TODAY!
429-1671 OR INFO@FAVA.CA

Workshop Topics:

- Directing the Documentary
- The Ethics and Morals of Documentary Filmmaking
- Making Money Or Making Movies
- Mixing Media And Mixing Genres
- Reality vs Truth

THE FILM AND VIDEO FILM SOCIETY OF ALBERTA (FAVA) IS A NON-PROFIT, CHARITABLE MEDIA CENTRE
THAT FACILITATES THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND EXHIBITION OF INDEPENDENT MEDIA ART.

10235-101 STREET, SUTTON PLACE HOTEL, WINTERLAKE ROOM, 10235-101 STREET, 429-1671



friday APRIL 4TH
A TEXTBOOK TRAGEDY
WITH HUNDRED ACRE WOOD (REUNION)
SAVANNAH | SNIG | PARIS ON A GOOD DAY | VESPERTINE BATTLESCENE

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DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM BOTH NIGHTS
AVENUE SKATEPARK 9030 118TH AVENUE | ALL AGES WELCOME

saturday APRIL 5TH
FLEA MARKET ART GALLERY
ACOUSTIC/ELECTRONIC STAGE
FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY CAMARAROMANCE, MY ROBOT UNICORN, LAMON MOGRATH, LIKEWISE VULTURES, TROY BRATERS, DANIEL MOIR, AND MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!

CONFIRMED VENDORS INCLUDE:
ACOUSTIC DRUM SHOP | OCTOPUS ROYALTY STUDIOS
BENT OLIVER PRODUCTIONS | POP ECHO RECORDS
CASSETTES RECORDS | PROJECT H.O.F.E.
CHAMPION CITY RECORDS | PUT OUT THE JAMS
COMMUNAL CAMERA | ROAST RECORDS
FLEMISH EYE RECORDS | SPREEPARK
GATEWAY PRESS | THOUGHTCRIME INK
ISLE OF RUE | TERNOLD PHOTOGRAPHY
JAM UNION | TURKEY AUDIO PRODUCTION
NON CAPABLE RECORDS | AND POST
NOTEBOOK MAGAZINE | UNITE
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THE FAWN SHOP | AND MORE!

FLEA MARKET & MUSIC @ 1PM | FREE ADMISSION
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YOUR PIC COULD WIN YOU ONE OF THESE



POST YOUR BEST PIC TO MATCH THE CAPTION
"YOU LEFT THE HOUSE WEARING THAT?"

Go to rogers.com/TellYourStory



Contest closes April 6, 2008. Must be Canadian residents, 13 years & older and a Facebook member to enter. 20 prizes available to win consisting either of one BlackBerry Curve valued at \$499 each OR one LG Shine valued at \$409. Odds of winning depend on the number of votes received on the posted pictures. Correct answer to mathematical skill-testing question required. No purchase necessary. Complete rules & details available at rogers.com/TellYourStory. Rogers & Mobius design are trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc., used under license or of Rogers Wireless. All other brand names are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2008 Rogers Wireless.

“YOU LOOKED FORWARD TO GETTING **THE VINYL**, PORING OVER IT WHILE YOU’RE LISTENING TO IT. I’VE DEFINITELY NOTICED A LACK OF THAT FEELING WITH IPODS AND SINGLES BANDS LIKE STAINED OR NICKELBACK.
—BACK-TO-ROCK PROPONENT/BLACK MOUNTAINEER MATT CAMIRAND

MUSIC PREVIEW • ROCK—NO REALLY, JUST ROCK • BY EAMON MCGRATH | 620 words

In The Future Presents The Past

BLACK MOUNTAIN DEFIES GENRE-LABEL SPECIFICS—BUT WHEN IN DOUBT, YOU CAN CALL THEM “ROCK”

BLACK MOUNTAIN
w/ Ladyhawk, Nordic Normanic, March 31 (8pm), Starlite Room (10030-102 St). Tickets: \$15, available at Blackbird, Megatunes, Listen, and Ticketmaster

“Rock and roll would probably be the best,” says Matt Camirand, bass player for Vancouver musical juggernauts (or should that be “drugonauts”?) Black Mountain, setting straight any confusion over how to classify what exactly it is that Black Mountain does. Or what they think they do, at least.

On the band’s latest record, *In the Future*, they’ve repackaged and revitalized the epic, sprawling, drugged-out rock of the ‘70s for new-millennium ears. And while the hammer-of-Thor toms and stoned guitars of the lead single “Tyrants” might have turned a bunch of music fans under the age of 20 onto prog rock and ‘60s psychedelia, you might not want to use those genre labels within Camirand’s earshot.

“That’s what I like about bands, when you don’t have to subgenre them, when it’s just rock,” he says. “I dig that. Those other terms just give who’s buying the record a reference point.”

When it comes to a band like Black Mountain, perhaps it makes more sense to talk not about their sound than the place they come from: the coast of Vancouver, with its open, screaming mouth directed toward the Pacific, the rumble of Canada’s railways, the hushed silence of the Rockies and its lakes, the drone of highway after highway after highway. “Vancouver just has this laid back kind of vibe,” Camirand says.



A Peak Experience | With *In the Future*, Black Mountain has reached the summit of their career. PHOTO SUPPLIED

“I’m from the East, which seems a little more hustle-and-bustle. There’s a lot of government stuff going on around Ottawa: people are just in so much more of a rush all the time. In Vancouver, in the summertime, we like to enjoy our time with friends, go out to the lake. It’s not really something I’ve seen in other parts of the country where I’ve lived.”

Given Black Mountain’s affinity for “chillin’ out,” as Camirand puts it, and their laid-back Lotusland vibe, it’s interesting that their music took such a turn for complexity and intensity this album ‘round. Gone is

the easygoing, stoned-blues feel of “Drugonaut” or “No Satisfaction”—fan favourites from their 2005 self-titled debut album; in its stead is the cerebral, psychedelic, widescreen sound of *In the Future*, the result of months of relaxed jams, house parties, and the regimented schedule of just hanging out together.

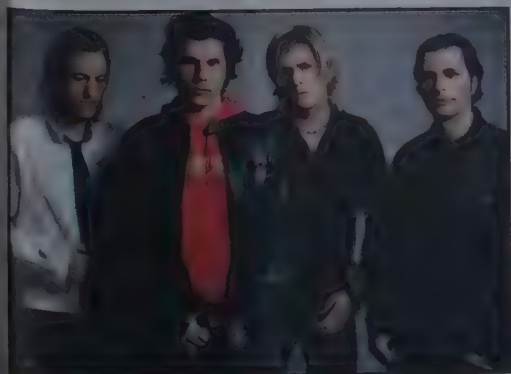
“The first record was more of a recording project,” Camirand recalls. “*In the Future* came out of being a band for two years, and playing hundreds of shows. We had time to put a lot of thought into the ‘album’ part of it: people have written about how

the record feels like a package, like when you used to buy records and listen to the whole thing.”

It’s true: the art of “the album” is not dead—not as long as bands like Black Mountain uphold the ideal of landmarks like *Dark Side of the Moon* and *Led Zeppelin III*, records with 10 or more tracks, purposefully designed to be heard in a specific order, the album artwork and music intertwined. All of which makes *In the Future* an odd name for an album that so fearlessly borrows ideas that seem to exist only in the past.

“The older folks like us, in their

30s, they feel like it’s a breath of fresh air,” says Camirand with a laugh. “You looked forward to getting the vinyl, poring over it while you’re listening to it. I’ve definitely noticed a lack of that feeling in the past 10 years or so, with iPods, singles bands like Stained or Nickelback—all that nü-rock. Some radio stations don’t even accept CDs! They only accept CDRs with the single, so it trims the fat for that radio station. I know people my age have noticed it—and to be honest, I’m just really glad people think we’re the antithesis of that.”



Charismatic Leader | Followers of the legendary Ian Astbury can join The Cult this Tuesday. PHOTO SUPPLIED

HOT TICKETS • MUST-SEE SHOWS

BRIT-ROCK
The Cult
Edmonton Event Centre • Apr 1
\$39.50 | At Ticketmaster.ca, or at the door

There’s no better way to spend a Tuesday night than succumbing to the awe-inspiring legacy of the Cult: the famed British post-punk turned hard-rock outfit has returned from hiatus twice in their 20-year history, released scads of albums and compilation records, survived numerous lawsuits, and witnessed more than 20 members come and go—while frontman Ian Astbury (who once turned down Oliver Stone’s offer to play Jim Morrison in *The Doors*—gasps!) and guitarist Billy Duffy stood by to see it all.

TEX-MEX
Los Lobos
Jubilee Auditorium • Mar 28
\$52.50 | At Ticketmaster.ca, or at the door

Sure, they’ve opened for Bob Dylan and The Grateful Dead. And you’ve likely heard their title theme to *La Bamba*. And you’d probably be hard-pressed to find some Banderas-loving youngster who doesn’t love their soundtrack to *Desperado*. But all this is just the tip of Los Lobos’ iceberg-like repertoire. The all-time standbys for Mexi-fused country-rock, the band have successfully leapt the generation gap, and they still put on a helluva show. They visit Edmonton this week with London’s R&B/blues up-and-comer James Hunter.

DUBSTEP
Rusko
The Pawn Shop • Mar 30
\$13 | At the door

Oddly enough, the UK-based DJ has claimed the title of “Best Hairstyle of 2007” on his MySpace page (a nod to the eponymous European line of hairstyling products, perhaps?), a title which doesn’t do any favours for this “Cockney Thug.” But he doesn’t really need any. Rusko’s contributions to the electronica subgenre known as dubstep haven’t gone unnoticed—his *FabricLive37* compilation with Caspa has been making waves, both good and bad, in UK club circles for months since it came out back in December.

The Steady Politics Of GrimSkunk Punk

GRIMSKUNK LOVES TACKLING TABOO CONVERSATION TOPICS: POLITICS, RELIGION, AND "THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE"

GRIMSKUNK

w/ Alpha Galates and Broken Nose, Mar 28 (8pm), Starlite Room (10030-102 St). Tickets: \$37, available at Blackbird, Megatunes, Listen, and Ticketmaster.

I've read enough interviews with politicians to realize that think policymaking isn't an expert's domain, but at the same time I'm usually reluctant to entertain opinions on such matters from musicians. Tell me, how often do they have the qualifications to weigh in on current affairs, beyond a microphone and a ready audience? But when Montreal's GrimSkunk puts songs like "America Sucks" or "Vive le Québec Libre" on their eighth and latest record, 2006's *Fires Under the Road*, it's too tough to resist the hook-baited without subtlety to attract mostly young punks and mild controversy—and ask about the ideology they'll be bringing to the stage Friday night at the Starlite Room.

"The life mission of GrimSkunk," says vocalist and guitarist Franz Schuller, looking back on the band's career of nearly two decades and counting, "was not really to be a political band. We wanted to be 100 per cent honest about who we are and how we feel and, because we're punk, say everything we thought, loud and proud."

"When you're angry about something," he adds, "holding it in isn't going to help."

So he doesn't. For over four nearly unbroken minutes—"I've got a big mouth," he'll tell you, unapologetically,



Not As Grim As It Seems | GrimSkunk still values the human experience of a powerful live show: "It brings people together," Schuller says. PHOTO SUPPLIED

"THE LIFE MISSION OF GRIMSKUNK WAS NOT REALLY TO BE A POLITICAL BAND. WE WANTED TO BE 100 PER CENT HONEST ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE FEEL, AND BECAUSE WE'RE PUNK, SAY EVERYTHING WE THOUGHT—LOUD AND PROUD," SAYS FRANZ SCHULLER.

cally, "I love to talk"—Schuller works himself up from mild concern over the possibility of assassination attempts on Barack Obama, to lamenting the current Chinese crackdown on Tibet, to chastising Stephen Harper's Conservatives for dragging gay marriage and abortion back into parliamentary debate, to expounding on the layers of damage Bush has inflicted upon the U.S. and the world, until finally Schuller is almost spitting into the phone over what he sees

as the steady erosion of the barrier separating church and state.

"I have nothing against religion—I think every religion has a beautiful message," he says, his voice seeming to tighten like a fist. "But can we leave that at home, please?"

Passion, evidently, can get the better of Schuller. But it's also what keeps him in this business at 39 years old (which puts him somewhere in the middle of GrimSkunk, age-wise), and it's what keeps the band—when

they're not at work at their Montreal record label Indica, started in 1997 and now headed by Schuller—almost constantly on tour. Even after countless shows all over the world, the allure of the live performance hasn't diminished.

"It's a job," says Schuller. "We're entertainers. It's show business—people are paying to have a good time. But it's not just about going up onstage and playing your music. It's about a human experience that you share,

and on that level it's much more than just the music. At some point you reach this level of communication, almost communion, with the audience, like a collective emotion that goes from person to person like an electric shock. It's a very powerful thing that brings people together."

Sometimes that comes easily, he says, mentioning the show GrimSkunk played at Foufous Electrique just before packing up to start their tour in Ottawa. The club, an anchor of their hometown indie rock scene, was where they played their first shows back in the late 1980s and early '90s. And even though they hadn't played there for probably a decade, little had changed. "The vibe was out of control," Schuller says. "It was almost like those years hadn't gone by. It's weird. People hadn't become bored or jaded."

Or vengeful. Connecting with an audience, it turns out, isn't always easy. You can blame GrimSkunk's politics for that.

"We've had Marines in the States write in very angry," says Schuller, "insulting us with every imaginable word. And we write back to them and say, 'Look, we don't hate Americans. We're saying that the situation in North America really sucks right now, for all sorts of different reasons, the main one being the current line of decision-making of our governments.' And many of them, by the end of the conversation, write 'You're right. We hate Bush too.' And I'm like, 'Okay, well, why did you threaten to kill me two e-mails ago?'"

The human experience, it seems, is a complicated thing.

A Brave New Species

MONTREAL'S EVER-CHANGING PLANTS AND ANIMALS TAKE ANOTHER STEP UP THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

w/ Born Ruffians, March 11 (8pm), Velvet Underground (10030-102 St). Tickets: \$15, available at Blackbird, Megatunes, Listen, and Ticketmaster.

Where's Charles Darwin when you need him? A more fitting name for a band has rarely been coined. Montreal's Plants and Animals have been quietly evolving in their local music scene, underground and undercover during the "Montreal is the new Seattle" craze of four years past—not unlike the region-specific species evolution that Darwin studied in the Galapagos Islands. Once a strange instrumental outfit, and now more of

a song-based indie rock band, Plants and Animals have expanded their borders, hit the Canadian highway, and released their first record, *Parc Avenue*, on Montreal's Secret City Records.

"We moved to Montreal 10 years ago," says P&A guitarist and vocalist Warren C. Spicer, who formed the band a short time after that. He says plenty of local bands benefited from the Montreal music explosion, but for the most part, Plants and Animals felt comparatively uninvolved.

"We were still in the percolation stage [back then]," he says. For instance, when Arcade Fire was playing in front of television audiences with David Bowie, Plants and Animals was still making the transition from their strange, experimental instrumental sound to the more straight-ahead in-

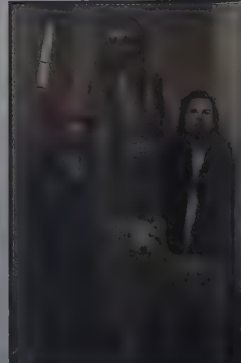
die rock they play now. "We weren't ready to bust out yet. We were working on our songs and our record, so it was cool to see the other bands bust through like that and kind of inspire everybody there. But it was also kind of unrelated because we weren't really part of it."

According to Spicer, *Parc Avenue* is the culmination of their career—albeit one that only attentive Montreal audiences really know the trajectory of. "*Parc Avenue* happened over a couple of years," he says. "Over the course of these few years we developed as a live band and a recording band, and figured out how to write a song, how to sing it, so we were slowly building up this thing, and we were just kind of doing it for ourselves. Slowly we started to see that there was an album: we could see the

shape of the record."

For Montrealers, then, *Parc Avenue* will be a welcome trip down memory lane. "Like anything, you've got to develop your fans and play shows," Spicer says, "because there's so many other bands and venues in Montreal, it takes a while to get known. But I think Montreal will support anything that's done well. It tends to support people that work hard and make good music instead of people that are the flavour of the day. It just seems like the bar is set pretty high musically there, so you have to be at a certain point for people to care about you."

Although Plants and Animals has a pretty layered history already, Spicer thinks the biggest milestones in the bands' career are just around the corner. Like the flora and fauna from



Half Montreal! | Plants and Animals may have missed the New Seattle craze, but Montreal still loves 'em. PHOTO SUPPLIED

which they get their name, there's more change to come.

MUSIC PREVIEW • FOLK FAMILY • BY TOM MURRAY | 430 words

Sibling Harmony



JILL AND MATTHEW BARBER SHOW OTHER MUSICALLY INCLINED FAMILIES THE PROPER WAY TO BEHAVE

JILL AND MATTHEW BARBER

Fri, Mar 26 (4 & 8 pm), Myer Horowitz Theatre (SUB, U of A campus). Tickets: \$14 advance, available at Blackbird, Megatunes, and Listen Records.

Family members can be absolute terror to each other.

That goes double when they're musicians—from Liam and Noel Gallagher of Oasis to the various squabbling Jackson Five members, you can always depend on the entertainment value when siblings feud.

"WE HAVEN'T REHEARSED TOGETHER, BUT WE DON'T REALLY NEED TO. WHEN WE'RE ON STAGE TOGETHER, THE BANTER FLOWS PRETTY NATURALLY."

So why are Jill and Matthew Barber not getting with the program?

"We're the opposite of rivals, actually," admits Jill Barber over the phone from Vancouver, where she and her older brother Matthew have begun the second part of their Sibling Revelry tour, following a dip down in Austin for the SXSW festival. "We play supportive roles in song, and encourage each other a lot."

Well, that's just wonderful—heartwarming, even. If we can't count on the two rising Canadian musicians to claw each other's eyes out onstage, we can at least look forward to their acclaimed songcraft. The standard line on the two goes like this: chanteuse Jill wanders easily between jazz, folk, and country (she was nominated for this year's Juno New Artist of the Year as well as Roots and Traditional Album (Solo) for her 2007 album *For All Time*), while Matthew is a sometime folkie, sometime rocker with a penchant for '70s pop hooks. Truthfully, neither of them can be pegged so easily, but Jill shrugs off

the labelling with little rancour.

"I think that when you break it all down he's a singer/songwriter like me, but he's treated his songs in a different way," observes Jill. "It's because he has this knack for writing catchy tunes, which lends itself to pop and rock."

Her brother agrees. "I play songs that I write on guitar—that's a singer/songwriter," he says matter-of-factly. Matthew's newest album, *Ghost Notes*, supports this declaration. A world away from his 2005 Warner Brothers swaggering rock 'n' roll release, *Sweet Nothing*, *Ghost Notes* sees the 31-year-old Ontario native traversing much the same musical

terrain as his folk-inflected 2002 debut, *Means and Ends*—which is perfect for the stripped-down, rootsy performance the two have put together.

In all the years that both have been playing, they've never had the opportunity to do a full-fledged tour together, so both Matthew and Jill are looking forward to this one. The Sibling Revelry tour follows a format very much like that of country music couples: Matthew opens the show, Jill comes on for a few tunes, after which she closes the night, with Matthew stepping back on at the end. The Seattles—Paul Mathew on upright bass and Les Cooper on piano, guitar and mandolin—provide accompaniment for brother and sister.

"We haven't rehearsed together," Matthew admits, "but we don't really need to. When we're onstage together, the banter flows pretty naturally. We've got this rapport, and I sense that the audience feels like they're seeing something a little different."

MUSIC BRIEFS

ROCK

THIS SHIP IS UNSINKABLE

SINK THIS CITY

w/ Hot Business, The Martyr Index, Fat Dave Crime Wave, Mar 29 (9pm), The Pawn Shop (10644 Whyte Ave., Admission free before 10pm)

Tom Kerr is a bit of a local legend, not only as one half of the double-guitar onslaught that anchored The Wolfnote, but also from his younger days shredding strings for punk heroes Death by Dawn. Now, with the era of smoky all-ages hall shows and dingy basement parties behind him, Kerr has shifted his focus to Sink This City, a band that maintains the heaviness but eschews the spastic, angry, confrontational stance of his previous bands.

"Our singer just sort of straight-up sings," Kerr says. "There's more of a melodic influence in it. But everything you do contributes to where you end up and what you're doing—obviously doing Death by Dawn and The Wolfnote and exercising that as an outlet definitely helped me get to where I am right now. A lot of people want to not be stuck in a rut for the entire time they're doing music."

Accordingly, Kerr enlisted a lineup of new musicians and built Sink This City from the ground up. And they're moving pretty fast: with an EP in their pockets already and a slew of shows behind them, the band has become one of the most talked-about local acts to emerge this year.

"When you've been a part of something for several years, it's definitely harder when you find yourself having to start again," Kerr admits. "But I've never been the type of person to be in more than one band at once, and coming into that, it's exciting, because you get to start from scratch." EAMON MCGRATH

EAR TO THE HOME PLACE

ANN VRIEND

Mar 30 (8pm), Yardbird Suite (8529 Gateway Blvd), Tickets: \$18, available through TIX on the Square (420-1757/tixonthesquare.ca).

Lazier souls will tell you Ann Vriend's cooey, whisper-to-a-scream vocals and knack for storytelling make her some kind of north-of-49 Dolly Parton. I suppose they'd be half-right... but that description doesn't take into account the brashness—an impetuous, way more Nancy Sinatra sort of thing—that creeps its way into *When We Were Spies*. It's the sort of album that waxes cinematic in a far more interesting way than hearing Dolly crank out "Islands in the Stream" for the umpteenth time.

Of course, it's impossible to imagine a girl like Vriend—who worked as an undercover liaison for a western European spy agency (no joke)—ever running short on material. She turns otherwise standard baroque-pop ballads like "Radio" and "Now the Lights" into eerily dreamy melodic voyages, only to turn around and churn up insidiously catchy, radio-ready fare like "Central Park Monday" and "Where You Are." *When We Were Spies* is an intense pop experiment: you won't find any Bond themes or Regina Spektor rehashes here. Vriend's super-secret album release goes down Sunday evening at The Yardbird... and she won't be singing "Jolene." MATT HUBERT



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**HEY, EVERYONE: MEET
MICHAEL AND JENA.**

INTRODUCTIONS

Garage rocker Michael Rault of the Mixed Signals, meet Jena Krystofiak, Bollywood and classical East Indian dancer. Hey, everyone: meet Michael and Jena. We expect you'll be seeing more of them.

Seventeen-year-old Jena has been dancing since she was three. At three plus a little, she picked up on classical East Indian dance. "My cousins were always involved in tap as well as jazz, but I was introduced to the classical dancing through Grandpa, who said that if I was going to dance I should do something that represents my heritage."

Growing up as the son of local blues guitar slinger and CKUA announcer Lionel Rault, Michael, 18, had a healthy dose of early and pre-rock influences to chew on. "I've been listening to R 'n' B my entire life," he says. "All of those Chess guys like Little Walter—he's my guy—Bo Diddley, John Lee Williamson. But I never really got into that old garage rock until later."

cont'd pg. 29





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**I WAS DOING SOLO
SHOWS WITH JUST A
TAMBOURINE TAPED TO
MY FOOT.**

BLOSSOMS

The Mixed Signals have generated massive amounts of positive press, and a devoted following, but Michael disbanded the group in order to go out on his own for awhile. "Things had dried up, so I was doing solo shows with just a tambourine taped to my foot, playing acoustic guitar through an amp for this rootsy minimalist sound." The revisionist approach went over well with his audience, but in the meantime a local radio station had picked up on his earlier band-based recordings. "I had generated some interest, and suddenly I got us a show for Sonic Band of The Month, which meant I had to put a band together again."

Jena has made a bit of name for herself with Bollywood dancing: she and partner Shabina Ramji perform frequently. Jena says she sees dancing as more of a hobby than a career, but clearly she's committed to it, even as she avers the idea that she'll ever make a living at it. "I'm not looking to become a professional choreographer or a professional dancer at all, that's not my goal; instead I just hope to continue to enjoy it as a pastime." If you've attended any of Edmonton's Indian dance performance, fostered by the Raga-mala Society, amongst others, you'll know that locally it's a pastime with legs, if you'll pardon the pun.

cont'd pg. 31

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 Shoes (Ben Sherman: \$109)

**I DID CONSIDER
 LEARNING SOME
 SCOTTISH DANCES AT
 ONE POINT...**

CLASSICS

Kathak is a highly systematized form of dancing, and very old—the accepted text for this form of classical dancing has been dated to either the second century BC or fifth century AD. For Jen the difficult and graceful dance is as much an expression of her culture—her mother is Indian, her father Scottish and Polish—as it is an artistic choice. “I did consider learning some Scottish dances at one point, but realised that I only had time to really study one form,” Jen says. “At first it was really tough to stick with it, but now I really enjoy it.”

Michael himself is also a classicist, with an appreciation of blues garnered at his father's knee, as well as at many shows. While punk rock is a constant source to be drawn from, Michael is actually trying to get as big a sound as he can without resorting to volume. “It's the other direction from where most bands go,” he explains. “We try and get the energy through playing hard, but not playing as loud as possibly can. We let the intensity create a punk vibe rather than a wall of distortion and lack of dynamics.”

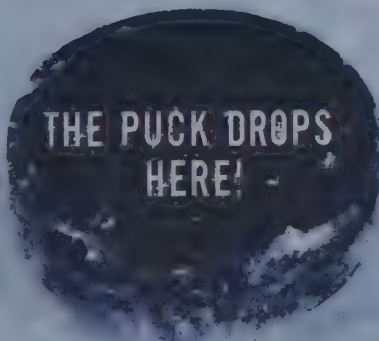
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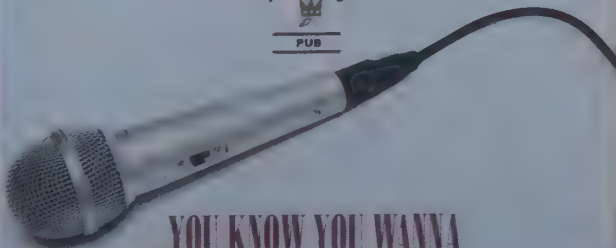
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CHOICES

Jena swaps between the Kathak and Bollywood style dancing. "The Kathak is an ancient dance form, whereas Bollywood is modern, like ballet is to jazz. Bollywood dancing is an upbeat and funkier style—it's a mix of everything, you'd never say 'Oh, you can't do that, it's not Bollywood.'" Dancing has taken her places—from Mexico to Disneyland, Dallas to Vancouver. "The best part is meeting new people," she says. "I have to say that I've never met as many dramatic people as I do at these dances."

At the moment Michael is working on a solo EP with Eric Cheng of Champion City Records, and then hoping to record a full band album in June. "The thing is, though, that I'm actually sort of realizing that I'm really enjoying the idea of really stripping down the sound. It's tougher than when there's a full band playing, and closer to the music I really like—this stripped down sound is really starting to be a big influence on my solo performance."





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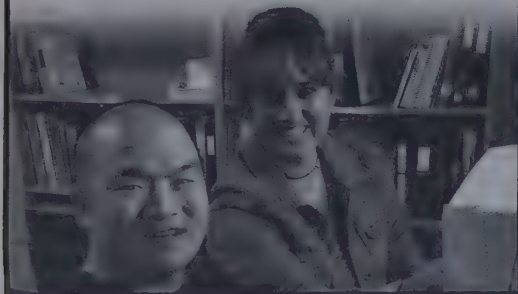
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**WHILE OTHER KIDS
WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL,
HE WAS PUTTING OUT
ALBUMS**

Studying an ancient and revered form of dance isn't easy—Jena now works with private tutors, though she picks up the Bollywood choreography on her own. Like kids who learn to play piano under the stern gaze of a taskmaster she's sometimes resented the effort she's had to put in, but after 13 or so years she's used to it. "I guess I never really had a choice," she laughs. "And yes, I've hated practicing at times, and I'll whine about it, but to tell the truth there are many times when I really enjoy practicing."

Rault has been a hard taskmaster on himself—while other kids were messing around in high school, he was diligently putting out albums. 2005's *Michael Rault and the Mixed Signals* and Edmonton's *Newest Hit Makers* in 2006. What never fails to astonish is just how closely Rault and his band came to the classic '60s garage rock sound without actually having listened to many of the originals. "I never heard The Sonics' 'Season of the Witch' until later," he says, "and I actually was listening to many of the later Nuggets compilations well before I heard the originals."

contin. pg. 38

HENRY

Jena: Top (Hugo Boss: \$165)
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Michael: Shirt (Hugo Boss: \$110)
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 Shoes (Converse: \$55)

**IF THERE'S SUCH A
 THING AS GARAGE HITS,
 THERE ARE SEVERAL
 HERE.**

Photo: Christopher G. Smith

SPRING

Jena's won many awards, including some at the national level. Of Michael's music, the UK's Shindig Magazine opined, "If there's such a thing as garage hits, there are several here." So where can you see your handsomely appointed new friends in action? Where can you see Jena's The spring and summer will see a lot of activity for Michael, both solo and with band. He's at the Pawnshop on Friday, and at the Shaw Conference Centre on April 4th and 5th for Beerfest. He'll be part of the U-22 (under 22) stage that's been sponsored by CKUA at the Folk Fest, playing his tunes with other talented songwriters. Meanwhile, Jena's dancing can be seen at the World Partnership Walk at the end of May. "We'll be part of the opening ceremonies and then also at the actual start of the Walk."





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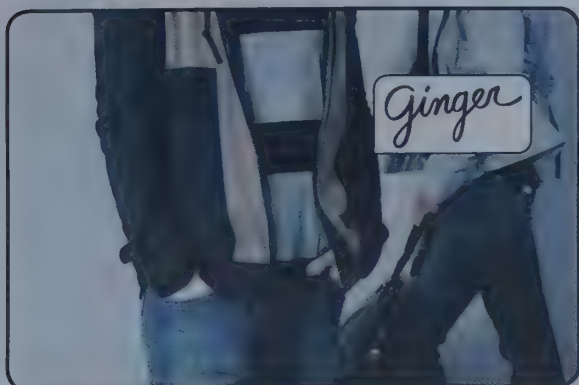
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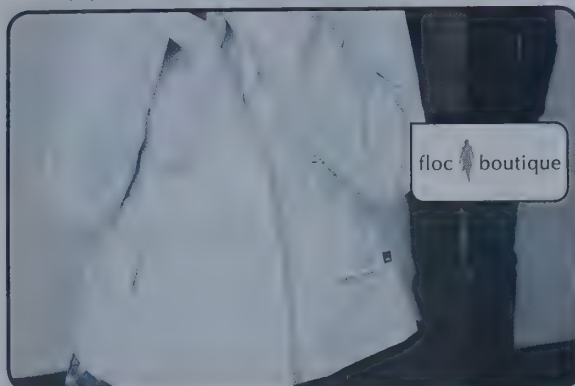
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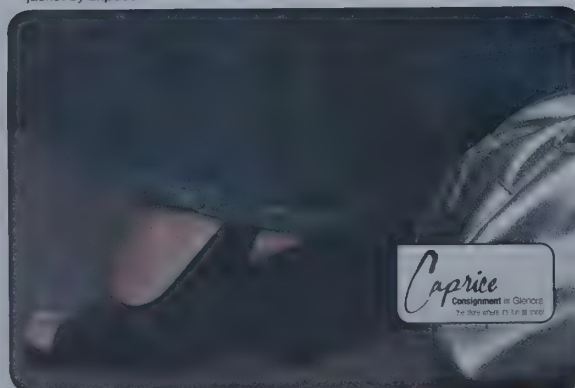
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CD RELEASE • UNRULY BLUES • BY MATT HUBERT (640 words)

Wylie Coyote

DANA WYLIE HAS COME FULL CIRCLE WITH THE RELEASE OF HER UNRULY SOPHOMORE ALBUM—AND IT'S DAMN GOOD

DANA WYLIE BAND

w/ Cam Neufeld, Mike Sadava, Jason Kodie, Mar 29 (8pm), Velvet Underground (10030-102 St), Tickets: \$10, available at the door.

"I'm gonna shoot a hole right through your precious goddamn/Martin HD whatever the fuck it is!" sings Dana Wylie on "The Ballad of June and Dougie," a salty bluegrass number from her latest album, *The Unruly Ones*. The words may seem a little harsh, but in fact her sophomore effort is filled with similarly stark images: whether she's telling tempestuous love stories, waxing political about the war in Iraq, or name-dropping James Dean and Hunter S. Thompson, *The Unruly Ones* is an everlasting love affair with all things badass—down to its liner-note collage of countercultural luminaries.

"It's something we realized after," Wylie says. "When we were thinking of what would be a good title for the album, we realized that a lot of songs seemed to have those references, that all of the songs fit into that idea of *The Unruly Ones*. I've totally been, in some ways, a rebellious person... the one to say, 'Don't tell me what to do!'" She laughs.

On the phone, the Piaf-sized, Saskatchewan-born singer/songwriter—a self-professed "tiny white girl"—is reserved in a way that fits neither her big voice nor the brass on her latest album. She was originally a busy musical theatre performer in and around Edmonton, and only after moving to Taiwan and meeting guitarist Jeremy "Jez" Hellard a few years ago did she choose to pursue her own sound. After some time performing as "The Wylie Brothers" in and around Taiwan—even, at one time, on a gambling boat in southeast Asia—the couple relocated to England, where they would become fixtures in the pub scene and play more than 200 shows there. Moving around, Wylie says, provided a perspective that was both humbling and essential to her music.

"I haven't done much traveling like most people do, like the whole 'take a year off work and visit as many places as possible' sort of thing," she says. "It's different going to places to live, because you're involved with the day-to-day. Most people never get involved with it. If I go through a period of not writing, I get really irritable when I set out to write something new—it's the same with traveling."

2006 saw the release of Wylie's debut *Almost There...* and the addition of stand-up bassist Nye Parsons

to the band. After touring western Canada at breakneck pace in '07, Wylie, Hellard, and Parsons returned to John Blerot's Wolf Willow Sound in Edmonton to record *The Unruly Ones*, which gets its local debut Saturday at the Velvet Underground.

With contributions from Cam Neufeld, Mike Sadava, Jason Kodie, Matthew Ord, and Scott Cook, *The Unruly Ones* becomes a tight-knit package that teeters between the snappy bluegrass trill of "One Lucky Bastard" and brooding, imaginative folk songs like "Hometown Boy." There's even a splash of pop to a piano-driven tune like "The Seer" and a jazziness to "Talent Crush"—but it's the tight wind of sensitiv-

ity and grit in Wylie's delivery that spills into every corner of the album. If that weren't enough, "Fear No More" sets Shakespeare's ballad from *Cymbeline* to jazz-lounge piano. In a strange way, it's a sign that things have come full circle for Wylie.

"It's actually one of the oldest things on the album," she says. "The organizers from Shadow Theatre were putting on a program called *The Bard's Best Bits* and asked me to be a part of it. I figured, since I was just starting to write music I should just do it! It's just such a great bit of writing I suppose that it's rebellious." Wylie giggles again. "In its own way."



Wylie Face | Dana Wylie doesn't look quite so tiny when you photograph her in the foreground. PHOTO SUPPLIED

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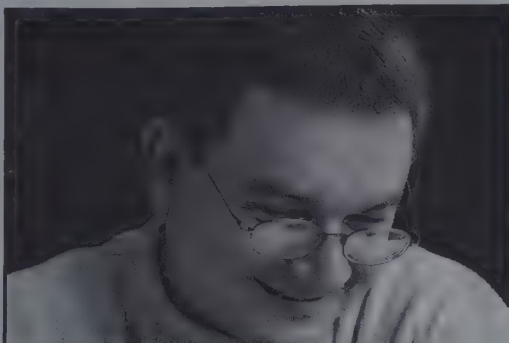
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WORLD BEAT • CLASSICAL REMIXED • BY PROSPER PRODANIUK (160 words)

Spooky Strings



Keeping Composed | Edmonton's own Piotr Grella-Mozejko adds a feather to his cap. PHOTO BY FELIX PLAWSKI

LOCAL COMPOSER'S FURIOUS ANTIWAR STRING QUARTET ATTRACTS THE EAR OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED DJ

"I will tell you one thing and it will not sound modest," cautions local composer Piotr Grella-Mozejko. "One composition teacher told me that it takes a lot of guts to write a string quartet after Beethoven and Bartok. With this piece I can say that there's nothing like it in Western classical music because of its accumulation of aggression and energy. I wanted to make it complex, very dense, yet make it speak directly."

Grella-Mozejko's String Quartet No. 3 (*TrancePaining: Black Wings Has My Angel*) is 12 minutes of furious, driving cacophony that the composer instantly felt would be something special. "The work was inspired by my hatred of U.S. international policy about this war in Iraq that has been built around a lie and will remain a lie," he says. "I was really fucking angry." At the same time he was reading Elliott Chaze's legendary 1953 crime novel *Black Wings Has My Angel*.

"Everything is fucked up in the end," he says, describing the demise of the book's antihero, an unrepentant ex-convict who commits a bloody robbery of an armoured car. "I understand the feeling of a man who feels that he's committing a crime for some higher reason, like soldiers do," he says. Grella-Mozejko says he invented the odd portmanteau term "TrancePaining" in the title as a way to capture this mood, the auditory equivalent of perpetual pain: "My saxophone concerto of 2006 was a preliminary study in this kind of aesthetic—a kind of uncompromising avenue between intellectually driven music and emotionally driven pop music like hip-hop and techno."

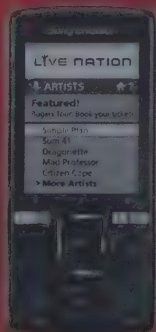
It's one thing for an Edmonton composer to say he's influenced by hip-hop, but it's quite another to wind up collaborating with world-renowned DJ Spooky. "The collaboration idea was that of the Penderecki String Quartet, who commissioned my piece," Grella-Mozejko explains. "They are pretty hot these days, and DJ Spooky had some of their recordings and was a fan of them. The PSQ had this idea of doing a gig in a night-

club and they decided to do a live gig together. He asked for some new quartets, they sent him about 60, and they said 'Hey, Piotr, he picked yours.' He wanted to do it at the very end of the gig because he felt it was so powerful. After the gig there was a hip-hop party."

Grella-Mozejko is pleased that Spooky's rendition, which debuted during a March 15 performance at Wilfred Laurier University in Kitchener-Waterloo, was not just a quick remix or cheap cut-up of the piece. Early in the mix, Spooky manipulates the sound of the quartet and drops in some samples—but beats only enter towards the end when some rugged jungle breaks perfectly complement the ostinato, punctuated by massive hooting and hollering.

"A couple of friends wondered, 'Why didn't he do more?'" Grella-Mozejko says. "But the piece is so dense that it would lose momentum if you did too much. I thought that he did a very smart thing to limit himself and just explore the expressive value and impact of certain fragments, and the collaboration sounds more like a string quartet with signal processing. His experience with pieces by Ligeti, Xenakis and others show that he knows what he's doing."

So it was a successful foray into DJ culture, then? "Oh yes," Grella-Mozejko replies. "This is one of the greatest things to happen in my career. The response to the piece seems to be of the most immediate kind. People really dig it. The PSQ have played it several times now. They are preparing a New York debut in Lincoln Centre in May and they said the best response was in Prague. With the gig with Spooky getting such phenomenal response, we might try to get them to do their collaboration here."



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MUSIC BUZZ • MUNICIPAL HAPPENINGS | 73 words

Flash-Forward, Flash Back



WILDLIFE FISH GRIWKOWSKY
QUADRAPUS LEADS OFF MY HIT PARADE OF LOCAL BANDS-TO-BE, THE PERFECT CAP TO AN EASTER LIVE-MUSIC BINGE

Today's column will be split evenly between the past and the present—what has happened and what will happen. Kind of like an episode of *Doctor Who*, except with better production values.

Given that we're time-traveling, we may as well start with the future, namely a couple of musical seeds that've been planted, watered, and (in some cases) placed in the sunshine. The first band-to-be we'll visit is **Quadrapus**, the electronic solo project of **Mike Scorgie**, who runs **Rectangle Records**, enjoys foreign films with abusive midgets in them, and whose home has a lovely view of the top of the downtown library (making it a fun place to be on New Year's Eve).

Scorgie's sent along a number of tracks that, when thrown together, complete the score to a videogame I'd really like to play after getting high. Though jagged nearly to the point of being industrial, the largely instrumental songs bring back warm memories of Kraftwerk and nihilism in general, especially when Scorgie sings/exhales. In some ways, the songs—"rough sketches," as Scorgie calls them—exist halfway between art and music, thanks to an ambient Brian Eno vibe. He made one of the songs on a four-track, drunk on whiskey. The name **Quadrapus** fits the songs: a little octopus floating in the bubbles with half as many legs as it should have.

He balks at the idea of releasing his own album, but says as a label-head he's "always looking for Edmonton bands. Send demos." You can do that, P.S., by mailing your efforts to Rectangle at Suite 870, 10150-100 St. But maybe familiarize yourself with the label first, eh?

Raymond Biesinger, meanwhile, continues to spread his contrast-y illustration style all over the world—you can read about his exploits on Biesinger's website, fifteen.ca. But for those of us with thirsty ear canals, the more exciting news is that he's started up a new band with former Wolfnote drummer **Garrett Kruger**.

"We kind of trying to keep it a secret, though we're going into the studio right away," Biesinger says from the home office. **The Famines**,



Everybody Tambourine! | Miss Mannered joins Amy Van Keelen of the Frosted Tipz. PHOTO BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

he describes, is "a modernist music twosome. I can't believe the name wasn't already taken. It would be safe to say that we're recording with Nik Kozub this weekend. Also that there's no plan to do any shows any time soon."

Since the Vertical Struts died before its time, Biesinger's flopping about on the dancefloor has been sorely missed—except possibly by his own knees and those who get motion-sick too easily.

Rams And Grabs

And now for some quick reviews. I spent basically the whole week watching bands, still vibrating from the **Ace Frehley** concert last week where his strings ridiculously caught fire during one of his guitar solos. Like, who does that? Ace Frehley is who.

Anyway, **Velvet Underground** saw some panty action the other night when **Giselle Webber** from the Hot Springs got down on the ground and did the inverted crab dance in her dress, legs wide open like the lame Pearl Jam song. Rather shocking, I must say, and I'm no prude. The Montreal music itself felt dated—aggressively shitty late-'80s rock at times,

with a twist of annoying hippie. The **Frosted Tipz** and **Red Ram** opened, **Red Ram's Mark Feduk** sang high and beautiful notes, but spent a little too much time fiddling around with the soundboard. That kind of perfectionism is essential in the **Edmonton** recording lab, where he's studio manager, of course, and explains the man's fixation. By the way, any band looking to appear about 25% cooler onstage should ask **Miss Mannered** to come on with a tambourine. This happened to both local bands at the show, so if my math is correct the entire night with three bands was around 17% more excellent.

Hawksley Workman pulled off a pretty good show in the basement of Megatunes on Easter Sunday as well. They actually had to turn people away at the door, and the basement was packed. Notably, **Jesse Zubot** played violin, backing up Workman's glam-cabaret theatrics, which can be traced back through time all the way to *The Doors*. I forgot how much I liked Workman's first album.

Still, the most fun song I saw all week was **Rick James'** "Give It to Me Baby" as covered by **Calgary's Mocking Shadows** at **Blues on Whyte**. White people dancing? Loads.

CD REVIEWS



PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Parc Avenue

(Secret City)

★★★★☆

Knock it off, Montreal. Just stop it. Stop being so cool.

Plants and Animals' debut album comes in a gatefold sleeve that opens up to a triptych aerial view of the band's Montreal neighbourhood, a place no doubt rife with artists' co-ops and corner groceries, where stringy-haired indie-rockers walk as gods on Earth and American Apparel is so 2005.

After opening with the short and punchy "Bye Bye Bye," **Parc Avenue** quickly heads straight into tracks lasting six and seven minutes. I was a little worried that the increasingly epic song lengths and worrisomely Zeppelin-esque titles ("Faerie Dance") were harbingers of intolerable noodling to come. Not to worry, though. Yes, there's more than a little tie-dye in P&A's closet—the band's history as a jam outfit is obvious not only in their nimble instrumentals, but also in the unexpected directions their songs take. But like **Gomez** and the **Super Furry Animals** before them, they rein in their long-winded tendencies without losing their ambitious, muscular musicality (a quality so often lacking in indie rock). Especially notable are "Mercy," with its shouty choral breakdown, and the sly "Good Friend."

I could make fun of P&A for being just another bunch of Mile End Anglo hipsters, but they're just too damn good. Damn you, Montreal. Damn you.

PETRA I. BOSKO

GHOST HOUSE

The Good Ghost House

(Reluctant)

★★★★☆



Halfway through their four-EP series entitled *These Are The Good Old Year*, Vancouver bicycle enthusiasts **Ghost House** turn out four quick blasts of quirky, catchy, piano-driven power pop. Comprised of fallout from veteran left-coast bands like **DBS**, **Witness Protection Program**, and **Black Rice**, **Ghost House's** teenage summer-punk sound is as finely polished as the rims on their ten-speeds. Easygoing production lends the tracks a playful feel, complete with drumstick count-ins and between-track shouts. Plunking keyboards flirt with New Wave guitar on the album closer, "No Enemies," leaving listeners championing the bit for the band's next offering. An additional treat is the built-in "bored" game you can build when you puzzle all the digipacks together. Who will save the cute forest creatures from the menacing bear? Who will save **Ghost House** from certain peril? Who will grab me a beer? Adventure is just a roll of the dice away. **TRAVIS SARGENT**

ERYKHA BADU

New Amerykah

(Universal/Motown)

★★★★☆



On the surface, **Badu's** latest is a jazzy affair. But while you perambulate in the coffee shop to the atmospheric jams that **Madlib**, **SA-RA**, and even **Roy Ayers** lay down for her, you might choke on your chai chiller—especially during "Me." "So I salute you Farakhan," she sings, "because you are me." Uh-h. Through "Soldier," "The Cell," and "Telephone," **Badu** tells the story of "The 4th World War" that she says we're all living through. Only the outstanding soul salvo "The Healer" presses a message you haven't heard 6,000 times before: "It's bigger than religion. Hip hop. It's bigger than 'Ma Nigga.' Hip hop."

It's nice to hear **Badu** isn't peddling a faux-Timbaland pseudo-electro thing, nor brain-numbing easy-listening R&B, but there's nothing here that's going to make you call your friends and say, "Goddamn, that's the best hip hop jam I've ever heard. The world is fucked. Let's start a riot." What's Going On this ain't. **PROSPER PRODANUK**

LOS CAMPESINOS

Hold On Now, Youngster...

(Arts & Crafts)

★★★★☆



My conversational Spanish may be nonexistent, but my ability to translate Spanish vocab on the Internet is masterful. So, in case you're wondering, "Los Campesinos" means "The Peasants" or "The Farmers"—a deceptive name for this musically rich septet of Welsh indie-poppers. *Hold On Now, Youngster...* is one of the latest releases from Toronto's **Arts & Crafts** label (who brought you **The Dears**, **Feist**, and **Broken Social Scene**). **Los Campesinos** create an energetic B55-style ambience, but they go beyond simply making pretty textures with the syn-copated, upbeat rhythms of "Broken Heartbeats," "Sound Like Breakbeats" and "Don't Tell Me To Do the Math(s)." Their name might be misleading, but the track "You! Me! Dancing!" is exactly the imperative it appears to be: "Pne thing I can never confess is that I can't dance a single step." Maybe not an axiom, but definitely an encouraging message for bedroom dancers everywhere. **CHRIS LEWIS**

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SEEN IT LIVE • GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK



Indoor Busking | Moses Gregg, Patsy Amico, and Brian Gregg of the Brian Gregg Trio play at the Busker's Ball at Naked Cyber Cafe and Espresso Bar. PHOTO BY CLARA HO

KEEP TO RAPPING, AND WATCH FOR GALES **LAZARUSH W/ NANO URIBE & BALLAD OF GALES**

Starlite Room - Mar 21

Local rapper Lazarush opened the Project H.O.P.E. fundraiser last Friday night with a typically intense, sweat-covered performance. He teeters between an almost punk-rock yell and a neo-soul singing voice—and his stage presence goes beyond the usually "bob your head and wave your hands" approach adopted by most hip hop acts. The beats

were huge and filled the floor, rousing more than a few shouts of approval back at the MC.

But about three songs toward the end of the set was when it all came tumbling down: it seemed like he'd just pulled one of his friends from the audience to play drums for a track, and the fellow's percussion skills were... well, rusty. Beats fell and eyebrows were raised as Lazarush played guitar and sang over what sounded like a broken metronome (or a really bad rehearsal session). The

general consensus was that Lazarush should probably stick to rapping. However, Nano Uribe and his latest post-Storyboard project emerged from backstage as a huge post-rock wall of sound. Three guitars, a violin, a bass, a drum set, and enough effects pedals to make even the reclusive Kevin Shields publicly weep. Nano and his six-piece backers Ballad of Gales astounded the crowd with a level of professionalism and togetherness rarely, if ever, seen on a first gig. EAMON McGRATH

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HIGHLIGHT • NU-JAZZ



Dapp Dabbling | Andy Milne heads up this Brooklyn-based quintet. PHOTO BY HAL HOROWITZ

Dapp Theory • Mar 28 • Yardbird Suite

Toronto native Andy Milne is a pretty busy guy. Over the years, the pianist and composer has been artist-in-residence at UBC, travelled widely and worked with Bruce Cockburn, and formed Dapp Theory in 1998 to "tell passionate stories." The band's genre-bending sound is tough to classify, but you likely won't forget it.

LIVE MUSIC

THIS DAY

ALTERNATIVE

MINUS THE BEAR STARLITE ROOM w/ Sylvie

BLUES & ROOTS

DAVE MARTIN HULBERT'S
DERINA HARVEY BAND ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL
INCOGNITO BLUES ON WHYTE

JAZZ

GRAHAM LAWRENCE JULIAN'S PIANO BAR
TOM KING FOUR ROOMS

POP & ROCK

311 EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE
NEIL MACDONALD URBAN LOUNGE

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DJ HARRY JAMES THE DOCKS Every Thursday
I LOVE BO'S NEW CITY LKWD LOUNGE w/ Dexter Nebula & Anthony Adam Every Thursday
HIGHER LEVEL THURSDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Drum & bass w/ D's Dreadnought, PhatCat, MC Enlite, and guests Every Thursday

JUNIOR BROWN RED STAR Every Thursday
MIA FELLOW BUDDY'S w/ DJ West Coast Baby Daddy Every Thursday
SALSA STYLE THURSDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Every Thursday
URBAN SUBSTANCE THURSDAYS GINGER SKY LOUNGE w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew Every Thursday

FRIDAY

ALTERNATIVE

BORN RUFFIANS VELVET UNDERGROUND w/ Plants & Animals

FEAR OF CITY RENDEZVOUS PUB CD Release w/ Suburban Syndrome

GRIMSKUNK STARLITE ROOM w/ Broken Nose and Alpha Galates

MICHAEL RAULT & THE MIXED SIGNALS PAWN SHOP w/ The Joe

BLUES & ROOTS

ALEXIA MELNYCHUK BLUE CHAIR CAFE w/ Kirsten Jones

ALLAN-LEE & THE BLUES BUSTERS WHISTLESTOP PUB
DERINA HARVEY BAND ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL
INCOGNITO BLUES ON WHYTE
JESSIE DEE CAFE LEVA
PATSY AMICO & BRIAN GREGG TRIO XWRECKS
RHONDA WITHWELL DUO FRESH START BAKERY
SLOWBURN THE ROCK PUB
TERRY MORRISON & JOHN GORHAM HULBERT'S
TOBY AXIS CAFE

JAZZ

ANNA BEAUMONT FOUR ROOMS
DAPP THEORY YARBIRD SUITE
GRAHAM LAWRENCE JULIAN'S PIANO BAR
KRISTILYN ROBERTSON STEEP'S OLD GLENORA
MARCO CLAVIERIA JEFFREY'S CAFE

POP & ROCK

DWAYNE CANNON TOUCH OF CLASS
THE EMERALDS CASINO EDMONTON
JEZEBELLE AND FRIENDS CLIFF'S PUB
SHAKER MAKER URBAN LOUNGE
TERA LEE CASINO YELLOWHEAD
WICKED AWESOME BACKDRAUGHT w/ JOE, Drooping Out, and The Bummers

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

BITCH BITCH BITCH NEW CITY SUBURBS Every Friday
CONNECTED FRIDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Local house & international guest DJs Every Friday
DJ CLAY STONEHOUSE PUB Every Friday
DJ EDDY TOONFLASH BUDDY'S Every Friday
DJ LOOSE CANNON IRON HORSE Every Friday
DJ SHAWNIBIS ON THE ROCKS Every Friday
FORBIDDEN FRIDAYS EMPIRE BALL ROOM Every Friday
FORMULA FRIDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE DJ Groovy Cuvy, DJ Fuuze Every Friday
FRIDAY NIGHT FREAK OUT NEW CITY LKWD LOUNGE w/ Anarchy Adam and G-Whiz Every Friday
JUICY DJ SUEDE LOUNGE Every Friday
THE MOD CLUB HALO Soul, R&B, indie, Brit pop, new wave, reggae & classic punk. D's Blue Jay & Travy D Every Friday
NEON NIGHTS FLUID Every Friday
RED FRIDAYS THE DOCKS Military appreciation night Every Friday
ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL Every Friday
SEXY FRIDAY 180 DEGREES Reggae and Top 40 w/ Generation IVEXX & DJ G-Unit Every Friday

ALTERNATIVE

DAMI AM RENDEZVOUS PUB w/ Quietus
DANA WYLIE VELVET UNDERGROUND CD Release
THE REZZ MAGAZINE LAUNCH PARTY STARLITE ROOM w/ Shawn Bernard, Will Belcourt, Advo of Stressed Street and DJ CreekAsian
SINK THIS CITY PAWN SHOP CD Release Party w/ Hot Business, Fat Dave Crime Wave and Marty Index

BLUES & ROOTS

ALLAN-LEE AND THE BLUES BUSTERS WHISTLESTOP PUB
DERINA HARVEY BAND ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL
IAN MORRIS TRIO HULBERT'S w/ Morris, Matthu and Frise
INCOGNITO BLUES ON WHYTE
KEN WHITELEY BLUE CHAIR CAFE w/ Daniel Koulack
SLOWBURN THE ROCK PUB
TIM SMITHO AXIS CAFE

JAZZ

ALEXIS BARO SEXTET YARBIRD SUITE
ANNA BEAUMONT FOUR ROOMS
DENNIS BEGORAY JULIAN'S PIANO BAR
RICK GARVIN JEFFREY'S CAFE

POP & ROCK

DWAYNE CANNON TOUCH OF CLASS
THE EMERALDS CASINO EDMONTON
SHAKER MAKER URBAN LOUNGE
TERA LEE CASINO YELLOWHEAD
TIM HARWILL CROWN PUB
WHITE WALL BACKDRAUGHT w/ Needles to Vinyl

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

ATHLETES' NIGHT RAFT w/ DJ Kriegs Every Saturday
DJ CLAY STONEHOUSE PUB Every Saturday
DJ HOT PHILLY RED STAR Every Saturday
DJ NIC-E SUEDE LOUNGE Every Saturday
FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HALO House w/ Junior Brown, Luke Morrison, and Nestor Delano Every Saturday
OH SNAP! THE TEMPLE Degree & All Out DJs Every Saturday
PLANET INDIGO SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Breaks, electro, house, spun by Pi Presidents Every Saturday
RED CARPET SATURDAYS EMPIRE BALL ROOM Every Saturday
ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL Every Saturday
SATURDAYS SUCK NEW CITY w/ Greg Gony and Blue Jay Every Saturday
SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Every Saturday
URBAN DANCE PARTY IRON HORSE w/ DJ 420 Every Saturday

ALTERNATIVE

YAKUZA NEW CITY w/ Un-Arms-Me and Perilous Seas
YOUNG AND RICH STARLITE ROOM w/ TNT

BLUES & ROOTS

STRINGBEANS BLUE CHAIR CAFE
TOBY BLUES ON WHYTE

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DJ RUDY ELECTRO BUDDY'S House, progressive, trip-hop Every Sunday
HOUSE ARREST STOLLI'S w/ Johnny Dangerous, Andy Inertia, and guests Every Sunday

ALTERNATIVE

BLACK MOUNTAIN STARLITE ROOM w/ Ladyhawk

BLUES & ROOTS

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Dem: Entry closes April 14, 2008. Fan Voting closes May 31, 2008. Open to Canadian residents 15 years of age and older. Submit a Demo online to enter Artist Entry Portion. Vote online or text to enter Fan Voting Portion. Limit one Demo per Artist. Up to 3 fan voting entries per day. Limited to one Fan Voting entry per Artist. Grand Prize approximate retail value: (ARV) \$25,000 CDN. Secondary Prize cumulative ARV: \$21,000 CDN. Fan Voting Prize ARV: \$3500 CDN. No purchase necessary. Mathematical skill testing question required. Release and Distribution Agreement with EMO/Universal required to be declared a Grand Prize winner. Release and Affidavit required to be declared a Finalist. Full Official Artist at www.redpipe.ca or www.25000.ca

COMING

MAR 27 — 311, SLIGHTLY STOOPID Edmonton Events Centre
MAR 27 — JILL BARBER, MATT BARBER Myer Horowitz
MAR 27 — MINUS THE BEAR Starlite Room
MAR 28 — BORN RUFFIANS, PLANTS & ANIMALS Velvet Underground
MAR 28 — DANNY MICHEL Myer Horowitz
MAR 28 — GRIMSKUNK, BROKEN NOSE, ALPHA GALATES Starlite Room
MAR 28 — LOS LOBOS, JAMES HUNTER Jubilee Auditorium
MAR 28 — FOO FIGHTERS, AGAINST ME!, HIFI HANDGRENDES Rexall Place
MAR 31 — BLACK MOUNTAIN, LADYHAWK Starlite Room
APR 1 — THE CLAY, THE CLINCS Edmonton Event Centre
APR 1 — LOS LONELY BOYS Myer Horowitz
APR 3 — CORB LIND & THE HURTN ALBERTANS Rexall Place
APR 3 — GROOVE ARMADA Edmonton Event Centre
APR 4 — BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH Grant MacEwan College
APR 4 — THE MOST SERENE REPUBLIC Starlite Room
APR 5 — THE COAST Starlite Room
APR 7 — NEW MODEL ARMY New City
APR 9 — DIMMU BORGIR Edmonton Event Centre
APR 14 — CHIDOS, PROTEST THE HERO, FALL OF TROY Edmonton Event Centre

APR 14 — JOHN BUTLER TRIO Starlite Room
APR 14 — CARIBOU, PUCK BUTTONS Starlite Room
APR 17 — ALAN JACKSON, BROOKS & DUNN Rexall Place
APR 18 — LYLE LOVETT Winspear Centre
APR 19 — DANIEL WESLEY Edmonton Event Centre
APR 19 — OSTERBAND Festival Place
APR 20 — PATTI PAGE Winspear Centre
APR 22 — TASTE OF CHADS TOUR, AVENGED SEVENFOLD, ATREYU, BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE Northlands Agricom
APR 24 — SEBASTIAN, KAWASKY Starlite Room
APR 30 — TIGER ARMY Starlite Room
MAY 1 — BUCK 65, CADCENCE, WEAPON McDougall United Church
MAY 1 — EROL ALKAN Starlite Room
MAY 2 — ANNE MURRAY Jubilee Auditorium
MAY 3 — AS LAY DYING, MISERY SIGNALS, AUGUST BURNS RED Starlite Room
MAY 6 — AMERICAN STEEL Agricom
MAY 6 — NOFX, NO USE FOR A NAME, AMERICAN STEEL Northlands Agricom
MAY 10-11 — G.O.B. SICK CITY Jet Nightclub
MAY 12 — DAWN LANGSTROTH Jubilee Auditorium
MAY 12 — MEGADETH, IN FLAMES, CHILDREN OF BODOM, JOB FOR A COWBOY, HIGH ON FIRE Shaw Conference Centre
MAY 12 — TOKYO POLICE CLUB Starlite Room
MAY 13 — DESTROYER, DEVON WILLIAMS Starlite Room
MAY 13-14 — CHARLEY PRIDE Jubilee Auditorium

MAY 16 — CAKE Edmonton Event Centre
MAY 16 — NIGHTWISH, SONIC SYNDICATE Starlite Room
MAY 18 — CLUMSY LOVERS Velvet Underground
MAY 18 — KIDS IN THE HALL Jubilee Auditorium
MAY 19 — GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS Winspear Centre
MAY 20 — DIANA ROSS Jubilee Auditorium
MAY 20 — LADYTRON, DATAROCK Starlite Room
MAY 22 — LE MYSTERE DES VOIX BULGARES McDougall United Church
MAY 23 — COHEED AND CAMBRIA Edmonton Event Centre
MAY 24 — ARCH ENEMY Starlite Room
MAY 24-25 — NEVERTHELESS, THOUSAND FOOT CRUTCH Northlands
MAY 25 — TAJ MAHAL, THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA Winspear Centre
MAY 26 — POISON THE WELL, KILLSWITCH ENGAGE, THROWDOWN Edmonton Event Centre
MAY 27 — RUSH Rexall Place
MAY 28 — CITY AND COLOUR, SLEEPERCA Starlite Room
MAY 29 — KANYE WEST, RIHANNA, LUPE FIASCO, N'E'R'D Rexall Place
JUN 8 — K.D. LANG Jubilee Auditorium
JUN 13 — PAUL BRANDT Show Conference Centre
JUN 15 — CRAIG FERGUSON Winspear Centre

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI RUJY ELECTRO BUDDY'S Every Monday.
MUNCH ON METAL MONDAYS NEW CITY LIKID LOUNGE
 Every Monday.

TUESDAY

ALTERNATIVE

APRIL FOOLS DAY FREAKSHOW VELVET UNDER-
 GROUND w/ The Great Obs Sideshow.

BLUES & ROOTS

TREVOR FINLAY BLUES ON WHYTE

POP & ROCK

THE CULT EDMONTON EVENT
 CENTRE.

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI ARROWCHASER BUDDY'S Every
 Tuesday.

DI HOT PHILLY RED STAR Experimental
 indie rock, hip hop and electro. Every Tuesday.

COOL LATIN TUESDAYS FUNKY BUDDHA Dance Lessons.
 Every Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY

BLUES & ROOTS

TREVOR FINLAY BLUES ON WHYTE

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

BEATPARTY WEDNESDAYS STOLL'S Every Wednesday.
DI HARLEY THE BANK Every Wednesday.

GUEST DJ RED STAR Every Wednesday.

ROCK OUT WITH YER BOX OUT NEW CITY Every
 Wednesday.

WILD CHERRY WEDNESDAYS STOLL'S w/ Trinspwith.
 Resident Fun. Stevie Velocity. Fusion. Every Wednesday.

WILD STYLE WEDNESDAYS HIP-HOP VELVET UNDER-
GROUND Every Wednesday.

CONCERTS

"B" CONCERT FOR PEACE APR 8, 8 PM. ROYAL ALBERTA
 MUSEUM THEATRE Featuring Eight Musicians including
 Rachelle Van Zanten, Karla Anderson, Bill Werthman, Chris
 Smith, Andrea House, and The Alegria Trio. Tickets: \$18
 at TIX.

100 YEARS OF THE KWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL MAR 30,
 APR 6 & 13, 14 PM. RUTHERFORD HOUSE, 11553 SASKATCHE-
 WAN DR. Performers from Edmonton and area showcase
 their musical instruments and speech arts. Info: 427-3995.
BEIJING OPERA SPRING FESTIVAL APR 18, 7:30 PM.
 MYER HOROWITZ THEATRE China's National Opera. Program
 will be conducted with English/Chinese subtitles. Tickets

at TIX.
BILL BOURNE & EIVOR PALSODOTTIR APR 15, 7:30 PM.
THE ARDEN THEATRE Canadian folk musicians and Icelandic
 vocalist. Tickets: \$28 in the Arden box office.
THE CRIS OF LONDON: MUSIC FROM THE TIME
OF SHAKESPEARE APR 6, 3 PM. ST. ANDREW'S UNITED
 CHURCH, 9915-148 ST. The Edmonton Recorder Orchestra.
 Tickets: \$10 at the door.

EILEEN IVERS APR 7, 7:30 PM. THE ARDEN THEATRE
 Irish violinist. Tickets: \$32 at the Arden box
 office.

EXPLORATIONS CONCERT SERIES

UNTIL SEP 27, 7 PM. STANLEY A.
 MILLNER LIBRARY THEATRE Presented
 by The Edmonton Creative
 Musicians' Collective. Tickets \$15,
 \$10 students. Info: 496-7000.

JACK WILLIAMS MAR 28, 7 PM. ST.
 BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE With Rob
 Heath. Tickets: \$17 and advance at TIX.

JAZZ AND REFLECTIONS EVERY SUN, MAR
 30-APR 27, 3:30-5 PM. RITCHE UNITED CHURCH, 9624 74 AVE.

Spring concert series. MAR 30 The Kent Sangster Trio. APR 6
 Rolanda Lee and the Canadian Hot Stars. Info: 463-2442.

JAZZ CHOIR/JAZZ COMBO CONCERT APR 5, 7:30 PM.
 JOHN L. HAAR THEATRE Directed by John McMillan. Tickets:

ST Adults, \$5 Students/Seniors in TIX.

JE TE RETROUVE APR 12, 8 PM. MCDUGALL UNITED
 CHURCH 65 member mixed choir with guests Mireille Rivajew
 and Campus Saint-Jean's voice students. Tickets: \$15 ill
 Librairie Le Carrefour Bookstore, 8627-91 ST. \$18 ill the door.

JILL AND MATTHEW BARBER MAR 27, 5 PM AND 8:30 PM.
 MYER HOROWITZ THEATRE Tickets: \$14 at Blackbyrd,

Megetunes, and Listen Records.

JOHN BOUTTE APR 5, QUEEN ALEXANDRA HALL Presented
 by Northern Lights Folk Club. Tickets ill TIX. Info: www.
 northernlightsfca.

JOHN REISCHMAN & THE JAYBIRDS APR 3, 7 PM. IRISH
 CULTURAL CENTRE, 6452-35 AVE. Presented by the Foothills
 Bluesgrass Music Society. Tickets: \$15 members, \$20 non-

members ill the door or www.foothillsbluesgrass.com/store.

MUSIC IN TIMES OF CONFLICT APR 12, 8 PM. WINSPEAR
 CENTRE The Richard Eaton Singers explore humanity's
 capacity for hatred with John Estacio's "The Houses Stand
 Not Far Apart" and Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man-A Mass
 For Peace". Tickets at Winspear Centre Box Office.

MUSIC WEDNESDAYS AT NOON WED, 12:10-12:50 PM.
 MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH MAR 28 Gordon Ritchie. Free
 admission, bring a bag lunch. Tea and coffee available. Info:

468-4964.

NATIVE NASHVILLE SOUND MAR 29, ARDEN THEATRE, S
 ST. ANNE ST. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 ill the door. Info:
 andre, 421-7915.

PATRICK KEARNEY MAR 28, 8 PM. MUTTART HALL,
 ALBERTA COLLEGE, 10050 MACDONALD DR. Celebrating the
 music of Manuel Ponce. Presented by The Edmonton Classi-
 cal Guitar Society. Tickets: \$25 regular, \$20 Students/Seniors/
 EGCS members at TIX.

PAYLO APR 11, 7:30 PM. THE ARDEN THEATRE Combines
 flamenco, Latin, classical, and jazz influences with Mediter-
 ranean guitar and Greek Bouzouki. Tickets: \$38 at the Arden
 box office.

PERCUSSION CONCERT MAR 30, 7:30 PM. JOHN L. HAAR
 THEATRE, MACLEAN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS Presenting a
 wide range of drumming styles, solos and a 15 piece percus-
 sion ensemble by MacLean's Percussion students. Tickets:

\$7, \$5 students/seniors at TIX or the door.

RON HYNES & CHUCK BRODSKY MAR 28, 7:30 PM. FESTI-
 VAL PLACE TICKETS \$32 at the Festival Place Box Office.

ROSHEEN APR 11, 7 PM. ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE
 Presented by The Full Moon Folk Club. Tickets: \$17 and
 advance at TIX, \$20 at the door.

RHYTHM OF THE PEOPLE MAR 30, 7:30 PM. FESTIVAL
 PLACE, 100 FESTIVAL WAY, SHERWOOD PARK A fundraising
 concert for One Child's Village charity, including the Bomba
 Quartet, Stewart MacDougall, Memeza Africa Choir, Christian

Mena, Brent Parkin, Lionel Rault, Ron Rault, Mark Sterling,
 and Tazzy Ryde. Tickets: \$30, \$30 boxes, \$28 seats ill
 Festival Place Box Office or TIX.

SONGWRITERS' CONCERT APR 6, 7:30 PM. JOHN L. HAAR
 THEATRE, MACLEAN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS Students
 perform their original songs. Under the direction of Alex
 Ben-Sedmak. Tickets: \$7 Adults, \$5 Students/Seniors at
 TIX.

TERRY MORRISON CD RELEASE CONCERT APR 6, 8 PM.
 FREEMANS HALL, 10310-100 ST. With Mike Lent, Mo
 Lefevre, Graham Guest, Bob Tildesley, Dwayne Hynkyn, John
 Gorham, Chris Smith and Paul Paetz. Tickets: \$12, at Mhyre's
 Music, Blackbyrd Myozik and the door.

THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE 7-10 pm. Music and
 poetry open mic.

COAST TO COAST 7-10 pm. w/ Troy P Wright.

MORANGO'S TEK CAFE 7-10 pm. Hosted by Tommy. Info:
 www.morangositek.com.

THE NEW TAPHOUSE 3-7 pm. Molson open stage, hosted
 by Carmen Cook.

STRATHEARN PUB 2ND SAT EVERY MONTH 5-9 pm. Hosted
 by The Royal Tease, followed by karaoke.

SUNDAY

DUSTERS PUB Hosted by The Mary Thomas Band.

EDDIE SHORTS 9 pm. Hosted by Rob Taylor, instruments
 and gear provided.

HOOLIGANZ PUB Afternoon jam hosted by Rock 'n Roll
 Kenny.

HULBERTS 7-10 pm. Hosted by Rheia March. Info: www.
 hulberts.ca.

NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 3-6 pm. Hosted by Willie James
 & Crawford.

O'BRYNE'S 7-10 pm. Hosted by Joe Bird.

THE OVERDRIVE 1:30-5 pm. "Anything Goes" afternoon
 acoustic jam hosted by The Shuffhead.

TEDDY'S PUB & EATERY 9-10 pm.

YESTERDAYS PUB 2 pm-6 pm. Hosted by The Killer
 Cowboys.

MONDAY

LB'S PUB 10 pm-12:30 am. Hosted by Shaved Posse: Ken,
 Fred, Gordie, and Matt.

PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7 pm. Acoustic fiddle jam hosted by
 Wild Rose 10 Year Fiddlers Society. Info: Willy, 474-5270.

THE IVORY CLUB 8 pm. Hosted by Marty Vinko.

ROSE BOWL/ROUGE LOUNGE 9 pm-12 am. w/ Mike McDon-
 ald and Sherry-Lee Wisor.

TUESDAY

THE DRUID 9 pm. Hosted by Chris Wynters.

SIDELINERS PUB 8 pm. All Star Jam. Hosted by Alicia Tait
 and Tilly Sidecar.

THE TAPHOUSE 8:30 pm-1 am. Moosehead Jam, hosted
 by Mark Ammar, Dale Collins, and Noel Mackenzie.

WEDNESDAY

CAFE BRITT 7-9 pm. Hosted by Paul LePage.

THE ROCK PUB Acoustic night.

EDDIE SHORTS Open mic, all gear provided.

HOOLIGANZ PUB 7:30 pm. Hosted by Rock 'n Roll Kenny.

LITTLE FLOWER OPEN STAGE 8 pm. Hosted by Brian
 Gregg. Info: www.littleflower.ca or 429-3624.

THE NEW TAPHOUSE 9 pm. Hosted by Danny Doffy.

PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7:30 pm. Bluesgrass jam hosted by
 Northern Bluesgrass Circle Music Society.

STEEPS TEA LOUNGE Acoustic open mic every Wed. Email
 Jessie at j.l.jabbert@gmail.com by Mondays to book a spot.

THURSDAY

180 DEGREES 9 pm. Hip hop open mic hosted by DJ Dirty
 Needtz.

DUSTERS PUB 9 pm-1 am. Hosted by The Wonitha Thomas
 Band.

EDDIE SHORTS 9 pm-1 am. Hosted by The Shameless
 Plugs All styles welcome. BVO instrument, drums & PA
 provided.

NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR 8 pm. Bring your
 own instruments, poetry, etc.

NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE 7 pm. Jam
 hosted by the Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Association. Info:
 Ray, 457-9417.

SATURDAY

BLUES ON WHYTE 4-8:30 pm. Afternoon jam.

THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE 7-10 pm. Music and
 poetry open mic.

COAST TO COAST 7-10 pm. w/ Troy P Wright.

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KARAOKE

B-STREET BAR Wed-Sun w/ Brad Scott.

BLIND PIG Wed & Fri w/ Shelley.

BUD'S LOUNGE Fri & Sat, 9 pm-1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.

CHIMMY'S Thu, Fri, Sat 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ Jimmy.

CHRISTOPHER'S PUB Tue, 9 pm. w/ Sonia/Prosound.

CROWN & ANCHOR PUB Tue, 10:30 pm.

CLIFF'S PUB & PANTRY Sat & Sun w/ Krista, Liquid
 Entertainment.

DOYLE'S PUB Fri, 10 pm-2 am w/ Cathy, Sat, 10 pm-2 am
 w/ Ewan.

THE DRUID Wed, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.

DUSTERS' PUB Sat.

D.W.'S PUB & GRILL Fri, 9-1 am. Hosted by Mr. Entertainment.

ECCO PUB Mon, 9 pm-1 am w/ Sonia/Prosound Productions.

ELEMENT LOUNGE Wed, 9 pm.

FORT GAMING LOUNGE & SPORTS BAR Fri, 9 pm-1 am
 w/ Angel How.

FOX PUB Tue, 9 pm.

FUNKY BUDDHA Sun, 9:30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.

GAS PUMP Tue, 9:30-10:30 pm w/ God's Live Juicebox.

H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun.

HAWKEYES TOO Fri, 8 pm w/ Hot Karaoke Productions.

HILLTOP PUB Tue, 9:30 pm.

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JUGS PUB Sat, 9 pm.

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 am w/ God's Live Juicebox.

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METRO BILLIARDS Tue, 10 pm-2 am. w/ Lounge Lizard
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MOJO'S Fri, 9:30 pm. w/ Sonia/Prosound Productions.

MONA LISA PUB Thu-Sat, 9:30 pm-2 am. Sat, w/ Cathy.

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ON THE ROCKS Mon, 9:30 pm. Drink the Bar Dry Karaoke
 w/ Scott Parsons, Mr. Entertainment.

OVERDRIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB & GRILL Sat, 9 pm
 w/ Jennie Joy.

RAMADA SOUTH Thu, 8 pm Colin & Ed Music Trivia. Sun, 8
 pm-midnight w/ Colin & Ed. Almost Famous.

RATT Tues, 9 pm. Colin & Ed Music Trivia. Wed, 8 pm w/
 Colin. Almost Famous.

ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL Daily, 9 pm.

ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL Thu-Sat, 9:30 pm-1:30 am.

ROUGE LOUNGE Mon, 8:30 pm. w/ Mike McDonald and
 Sherry-Lee Wisor.

SILVER MARTINI Every 2nd Sat, 9 pm-1 am w/ ProSound
 Productions.

TRANSIT HOTEL Thurs, 7:30-11:30 pm w/ ProSound
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X-WRECKS LOUNGE Wed, 7:30-11:30 pm w/ Sonia/Pro-
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“THIS IS A TEXTBOOK CASE OF A MIDDLING MOVIE THAT NONETHELESS ATTRACTED ENOUGH ONSCREEN TALENT TO ESCAPE STRAIGHT-TO-DVD PURGATORY.

MOVIE REVIEW • SLOW AND STEADY • BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY | 466 words

Fatboy Stumbles

DAVID SCHWIMMER'S FLABBY DIRECTORIAL DEBUT NEEDS SOME TONING UP BEFORE IT CAN GO THE DISTANCE

RUN FATBOY RUN

Directed by David Schwimmer. Starring Simon Pegg, Thandie Newton, Hank Azaria. Opens Fri, Mar 28.

★★★☆☆

Run Fatboy Run is a textbook case of a middling movie that nonetheless managed to attract enough onscreen talent to escape straight-to-DVD purgatory. (See also: the inexplicable career choices of Samuel L. Jackson or Christopher Walken.) Let's see, who can we blame... surely not screenwriter Simon Pegg, the lovable star and writer of *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*? Well, actually, yes. Partly. Blame must also be portioned out to Michael Ian Black, who co-wrote the script with Pegg.

'Cause you see, the script is the problem, not the performances, which are spirited and funny, at least among the leads. Pegg is great as Dennis, a responsibility-phobic loser approaching middle age who left his pregnant fiancée Libby (Thandie Newton) at the altar a few years back. Now he lives in a dumpy basement apartment while Libby is living in a posh flat with her new fiancé, a well-to-do American businessman named Whit (Hank Azaria).

But the film flounders for half an hour before finding a foothold on its plot, which even then turns out to be pretty thin: in a bid to win back his self-respect (and, maybe more importantly, Libby), Dennis decides to compete in London's Nike River Run. (Is it a sad commentary on the ubiquity of product placement that I



Fatboy, Gym | Simon Pegg blasts his biceps, to little effect, in *Run Fatboy Run*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

didn't even realize that this particular plot device was product placement until I typed that sentence?)

After nabbing a sponsorship from the National Erectile Dysfunction Association, he embarks upon his training, or rather upon a series of training montages, aided by his best friend Gordon (Dylan Moran) and stereotypically comical Indian landlord Mr. Ghoshdashtidar (Harish

Patel).

Directed by David Schwimmer (yep, it's Ross) with adequate skill but little flair, *Run Fatboy Run* goes through the motions listlessly. Of course, it's got some laughs—when ever you get two great comic actors like Azaria and Pegg onscreen, jollity is sure to follow. The film's problem are much less evident when the stars are onscreen together, as when

they have to play to the supporting cast (or worse, when the supporting cast has to play to each other). The wit evaporates and the dialogue becomes clunky and ill-timed—the attempts to establish a genuine relationship between Dennis and his semi-estranged son are especially cloying.

Azaria is great as Whit, but his character is strangely bipolar. He be-

gins the film as a likable guy, which makes Dennis' hatred of him that much funnier. But about halfway through, he turns into a self-centred, fatuous jerk, presumably because there's no other way for the script to resolve itself satisfyingly—and predictably. The result is a little confusing. It's just a light comedy, sure, but even a light comedy should respect the integrity of its characters, right?

DVD DICTATOR • THE MOVIES YOU MUST BUY THIS TUESDAY

MUSICAL

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

CAST | Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Sacha Baron Cohen

Tim Burton's big-screen version of Stephen Sondheim's brilliantly bloodthirsty Broadway musical is teeming with so much visual imagination and such a surprisingly mature understanding of its vengeance-minded main character that it almost doesn't matter that Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter have such tiny, tentative singing voices. But who can blame them? This story would make anybody self-conscious about the safety of their throats.

INTERNATIONAL

THE NIGHT OF THE SHOOTING STARS/KAOS/FIORILE

DIRECTORS | Paolo and Vittorio Taviani

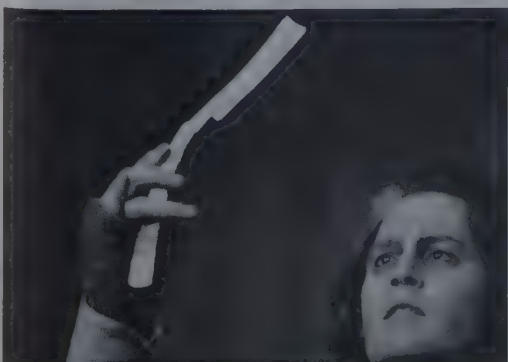
Their unique ability to combine brutal tales of Italian peasant life with forays into magical realism made The Taviani Brothers two of the most celebrated figures in international cinema during the '70s and '80s. Their work has not been particularly well-served on DVD, however—so Koch Lorber's release of three of their best later titles is especially welcome. Try starting out with *The Night of the Shooting Stars*, a luminous 1982 World War II drama which transforms a tale of hardscrabble survival into a bedtime story.

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

THE GOOD NIGHT

CAST | Martin Freeman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Penélope Cruz, Simon Pegg, Danny DeVito

It's a slow week for DVDs, but if that gives intriguing little movies like this romantic comedy a chance to get noticed, who's complaining? Martin Freeman, from the British *The Office*, is a sad sack musician who uses lucid dreaming to pursue a fantasy relationship with a gorgeous woman. Gwyneth Paltrow's performance as Freeman's mousy real-life girlfriend is the film's most attention-getting acting stunt, but it's Penélope Cruz's turn as Freeman's dream goddess and her real-life doppelgänger that's the real discovery.



His Skin Was Pale And His Eye Was Odd | Johnny Depp shaves the faces of gentlemen who never thereafter are heard of again in *Sweeney Todd*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**THE RELENTLESSLY DREARY
SLEEPWALKING COULD CURE
INSOMNIA... IF IT WEREN'T SO
IRRITATING**

SLEEPWALKING

Directed by William Maher. Starring Nick Stahl, AnnaSophia Robb, Charlize Theron, Dennis Hopper. Opens Fri, Mar 28.

★☆☆☆☆

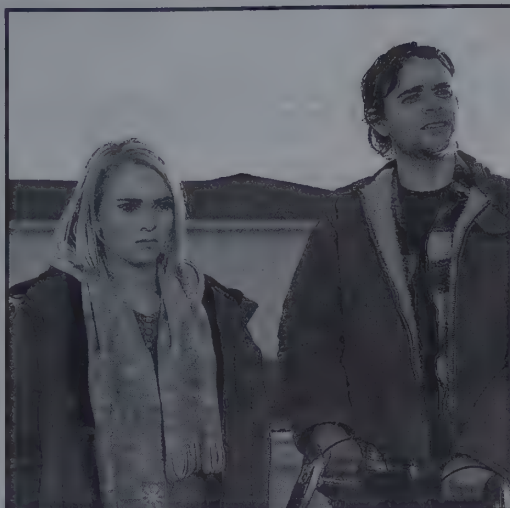
You know what you're in for with *Sleepwalking's* very first shot: a closeup of a pair of cheap, battered high-heeled boots in white snakeskin, a pair of ugly prefaded jeans tucked into them. The camera pulls back a little farther, and we see we're in a police station. The camera pulls back farther still, and we see that the boots belong to... oh my God, can it really be Charlize Theron again?

Yes indeed, and she's playing yet another poor, uneducated, lower-class woman struggling to make the rent, getting into tearful, defensive, self-sabotaging arguments with landlords, cops, and judges, trying to hold her chin up high as she drives her beat-to-shit car through a wintry landscape as bleak as her career prospects. I can understand Theron's desire not to put another *Aeon Flux* on her résumé, but *gee whiz*, after

Monster, North Country, In the Valley of Elah, and now Sleepwalking, would it kill her to play a sexy secret agent sometime soon?

In *Sleepwalking*, Theron plays Joleen, an unemployed single mom whose boyfriend's home has just been raided by the cops due to the marijuana grow operation he was running in the yard. With nowhere else to turn, Joleen and her 12-year-old daughter Tara (AnnaSophia Robb), move in with Joleen's brother James (Nick Stahl), who's just barely hanging onto a crappy minimum-wage job building playgrounds.

And let me tell you, the scenes in James' barely furnished, barely lit shithole apartment may be the ultimate achievement in relentlessly dismal Sundance Festival realism. All you other directors trying to capture the drabness of working-class life in red-state America: you can give up now: you're never going to be able to lay on a thicker impasto of depressing, mud-brown murk than director William Maher does in *Sleepwalking*. James, who's been living in this place for months, has a pale, clammy, greasy pallor to his skin—he looks less like a human being than some kind of fungus that's



Asleep At The Wheel | AnnaSophia Robb and Nick Stahl somnambulate their way through the bleak landscape of *Sleepwalking*.
PHOTO SUPPLIED

been growing in the corner.

Theron exits the movie surprisingly early; Joleen ducks out one night, leaving Tara a note promising vaguely to return in time for her birthday. I can't blame her for wanting to escape that apartment as quickly as

possible, and I can even forgive her for leaving her daughter behind. What I can't forgive, however, is the way Joleen's departure leaves us with James as the movie's central figure—a more passive, inarticulate, borderline-cretinous protagonist would be

hard to imagine.

Unable to figure out how to drive Tara to school and still show up to work on time, James loses his job, gets kicked out of his apartment, spends a week or sleeping on a half-inflated air mattress in a buddy's basement, and then, as a final act of almost willfully self-destructive foolishness, he pools his last few hundred dollars and takes Tara on a road trip—destination unknown and possibly nonexistent, hitting every dreary motel and featureless strip of highway along the way.

Sleepwalking presents itself as having a commitment to realism, but what it really has a commitment to is its own self-important air of unflagging somberness, to a world utterly lacking in spontaneity or joy, to characters who seem defeated by the screenplay even before the movie starts. *Sleepwalking* is a particularly irritating kind of bad movie, the kind that sets out to narrow your vision of the world instead of enlarging it—all in the name of "art."

"My whole life I feel like I've been sleepwalking," James tells Tara near the end of the film, adding that now things are different, that he's finally awake. That makes one of us.

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ONLINE MOVIES • STRAIGHT OUTTA DETROIT | 464 words

Kick Out The Jams, MC5-ers



ROCKUMENTARY MCS: A TRUE TESTIMONY SAYS THAT THE REVOLUTION BEGINS IN THE GARAGE

In the annals of rock and roll, arguably the most dangerous band to emerge from the swinging '60s would be Detroit's The MC5 (although the 13th Floor Elevators would give them a run for their money). They only lasted from 1965 through to 1973, but The MC5 were a decided influence on (and precursor to) 70s punk; they were scrutinized and secretly filmed by the FBI, they led their own political movement (The White Panthers), they introduced Iggy Pop and the Psychedelic Stooges to the free world—and that's just the tip of the dipstick!

In the formidable documentary **MC5: A True Testimony**, director David Thomas does a magnificent job of revitalizing and legitimizing the legacy of the band without resorting

to cheap nostalgia, long-in-the-tooth testimonials, or misguided political theorizing. He allows the surviving band members (Wayne Kramer, Michael Davis, Dennis Thompson) and assorted supporting characters to present an oral history of the band—and indirectly, of the era. But he also honours the memory of the deceased members (Fred "Sonic" Smith and Rob Tyner) and the cosmically conscious activism of the times through vintage performances, Super 8mm clips, and archival footage.

Sounds confusing, but in fact, the film is as simple as simple can be; in fact, *MC5: A True Testimony* could

WATCH MCS: A TRUE
TESTIMONY ONLINE AT WWW.
TOFU-MAGAZINE.NET/
NEWVERSION/PAGES/MCS.
HTML.

serve as a "how-to" template for any aspiring filmmaker wanting to do a study of any kind of collective artistic creativity.

The band's story is presented in chronological order, an approach which only underscores the staggering accomplishments that they were able to achieve in a very short period

of time, or 1966 garageaholics, you get boss performance footage from various VFW halls. For 1967 psych-heads you get groovy Grande Ballroom performances and light shows. For 1968 peaceniks you get action-packed footage from the Chicago Democratic Convention concert in the park and the subsequent riots. For music lovers everywhere you get a jaw-dropping complete 1970 performance of "Looking at You" that defies logic, gravity, and sonic comprehension. For the weirdest gigs imaginable you have the MC5 supporting Anne Murray.

What emerges from these shamanic maestros, in all their incarnations, is a commitment to positive change for the collective whole through the communicative power of music. It's a straight-ahead rock 'n' roll saga with all the trimmings (sex, drugs, fire bombings, Velvet Underground) that will provide ample nourishment for any rock snob.

But even the uninitiated will be inspired by the film's heartfelt belief in music's importance to society and how a commitment to reversing the flow of history—and indeed, to changing the world—can begin in any garage, anywhere in the world.

Let the revolution begin.

"RUN, DON'T WALK,
to see this heartfelt tale...enough LAUGHS
to carry you past the finish line."
-Mary Anne Dwyer, REELZCHANNEL

SIMON PEGG
THANDIE NEWTON
HANK AZARIA
FROM DIRECTOR
DAVID SCHWIMMER

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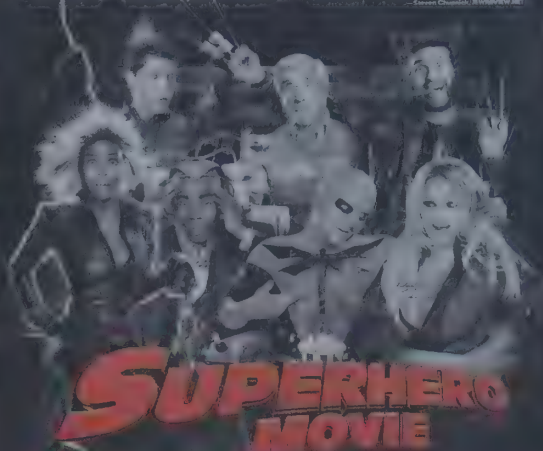
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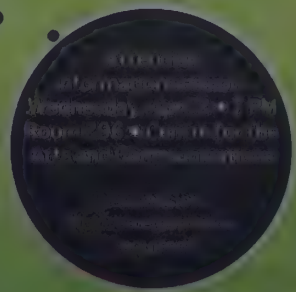


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All In The Famiglia

BENEATH ITS NEOREALIST TRAPPINGS, *ROCCO AND HIS BROTHERS* IS ACTUALLY A RIP-ROARING FAMILY SOAP

ROCCO AND HIS BROTHERS

Directed by Luciano Visconti. Starring Alain Delon, Renato Salvatori, Annie Girardot. Sun-Wed, Mar 30-Apr 2 (7pm). Metro Cinema (Zedler Hall, The Citadel).

★★★★☆

The "economic miracle" that caused mass migration from the impoverished south to the industrially virile north has been the basis (or at least the background) for a number of classic Italian films.

The quest for material comfort, the push and pull of family—these

were just some of the questions addressed by Italian filmmakers still grappling with the aftereffects of World War II. In Alberto Lattuada's recently re-released 1962 black comedy *Mafioso*, for instance, a successful Sicilian migrant takes his Milanese wife and daughters back home to meet his poor family, with much culture clashing as a result. Luchino Visconti's 1960 epic *Rocco and His Brothers* is the reverse: it follows a family of Southerners as they disembark in Milan, searching for a better life for all—and there's no comedy in it whatsoever.

What we get instead is a good old-fashioned melodrama. Family matriarch Rosaria Parondi has

brought her four sons to the big city in order to escape the inescapable poverty that blights their home region. Vincenzo (Spiros Focás), the eldest, is already living in the city, married and working at a factory. The youngest, Rocco (Alain Delon), and middle brother Simone (Renato Salvatori) both attempt to make a go of it as boxers, but they find themselves entangled over the same girl, a self-described whore named Nadia (Annie Girardot).

Rocco is a good son, idealistic and fiercely loyal to family. Simone, however, falls prey to the excesses of his character and gets caught up in an extravagance of emotion that threatens to unravel what few ties still bind the Parondi clan. What follows is a well-constructed soap opera, a meditation on lust and greed that found attentive watchers in first-generation Italian-American directors Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola—the latter of whom no doubt made special note of the expressive film score by Nina Rota, later hiring him to supply music for *The Godfather*.

With gorgeous yet bleak black-and-white photography that cap-



The Italian Job | Alain Delon (centre) became an international film star as a result of his work in *Rocco and His Brothers*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

tures Milan at its most unforgiving, *Rocco and His Brothers* appears at first to belong to the Italian neorealist tradition that Visconti played an important part in developing. In actuality it's a sentimental film, operatic even, at times just missing caricaturing its subjects—like a Harold Robbins paperback as

filmed by Roberto Rossellini. Visconti was a Marxist, but most importantly he was a humanist, and his portrayal of the Parondi family is tender, knowing. Even as the urban-versus-rural motif plays out, he never reduces his characters to economic ciphers the way that the city they toil in does.

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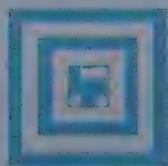
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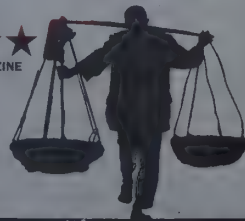
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MOVIE REVIEW • CRUSHING DISAPPOINTMENT • BY JAMES HAMILTON | 199 words

Where's Kevin Costner When You Need Him?



Superworst | Superbad screenwriter Seth Rogen fails to make it two in a row with limp *Drillbit Taylor*. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

OWEN WILSON MAKES A PISS-POOR BODYGUARD IN THE EVEN MORE PISS-POOR DRILLBIT TAYLOR

DRILLBIT TAYLOR

Directed by Steven Brill. Starring Owen Wilson, Nate Hartley, Troy Gentile, Leslie Mann. Now playing.

☆☆☆☆

It takes a lot for me to hate a movie.

I like to think that I'm pretty easy to please. Some of the movies on the Top 10 lists I compile in my head are absolutely awful. I have the uncanny ability to find redeeming qualities in just about anything. I'm especially forgiving towards comedies. Give me one really good fart joke or groin kick and I'm all yours. All I ask for is a little effort.

Seems that's too much to expect

from *Drillbit Taylor*. The movie follows teenaged friends Wade and Ryan. Both have big hopes for their first year in high school, after all, there is a certain window of time during Grade 10 when you can erase everyone's memories of your prior geekiness and make a fresh start. The resident bully, however, smells fresh meat. After a montage of swirlies and noogies, the boys decide to hire a bodyguard.

Enter Drillbit (Owen Wilson), a healthy-looking homeless man, who ekes out a seemingly carefree existence begging for change from slow-moving cars. Drillbit has a dream: he wants to leave the gritty streets and move to pristine northern Canada. He comes across the ad the kids have taken out in the local paper, and convinces them he's an ex-army ranger who will become their protector, keeping them bully-free. He goes into the charade fully expecting to rip the kids off when they least expect it. Of course, everyone learns a lesson by the time the film is over:

the bully gets his, everyone grows up a little and I throw up in my mouth.

I really wanted to like this movie. I liked the concept when I saw the ads. I mean, there were times I wish I'd thought of hiring a hobo to kick the snoot out the jocks who gave me the gears. But watching *Drillbit Taylor* made all of my revenge fantasies disappear, replaced by an uncontrollable urge to give everyone involved with it a purple nurple.

Owen Wilson has made a career out of playing laid-back slackers, but here he seems less "laid-back" than simply "laid out." I got a little sleepy just watching him. His performance shares the same tranquilizing qualities as a glass of warm milk.

And the kids Drillbit is protecting are so whiny and unsympathetic that I actually started to side with the bully. I'd probably pick on the shrieky little lamewads too.

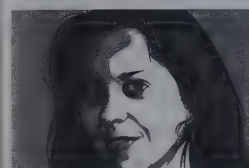
"You can't polish a turd" is a comment spoken by one of Drillbit's homeless pals, chastising him for

abandoning his shiftless friends and unambitious lifestyle. It's also a perfect way to describe my frustration with this movie. I assume the writers (the overexposed Seth Rogen and Tom Green Show writer Kristopher Brown—yes, he had writers) were attracted to this project by the fact that John Hughes, the reclusive writer of such comedy classics as *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* and *National Lampoon's Vacation*, developed the idea in the early '90s, but they can't take the reek off this stinker. Maybe Hughes' choice to use an alias should have been a tipoff—this is the dude, after all, who had no problem with taking credit for writing the *Beethoven* series.

I hope Rogen is just having an off day here. I'm a big fan of *Superbad*, but on the other hand I can see a worrying tendency to lapse into sentimentality that could get old real quick. Whatever the case may be, I suspect *Drillbit Taylor* will be a victim of name-calling and worse for years to come.

TELEVISION • DIG, LAZARUS, DIG! | 663 words

To Live And Die In L.A.



TELEPROMPTER NICOLA SIMPSON KHULLAR SOMETIMES VIEWERS CAN BRING A SHOW BACK FROM THE DEAD... AND SOMETIMES IT'S EVEN WORTH IT

What's your position on euthanasia? I don't mean for Fluffy, who may need a colostomy bag and kibble in the blender, but what about your other unconditional love—TV?

One of the hardest decisions in network television seems to be when to put a show out of its misery. Maybe it's jumped the shark. Maybe it's too expensive. Maybe nobody's watching it. Either way, pulling the plug sucks. But these days, the demise of your favourite show isn't always a permanent condition.

Want proof of life after death? To the time machine!

1968: *Star Trek's* future hovers in the balance after a dismal second season, until its already rabid fan-base starts writing letters to NBC. It was renewed, but sent to malingering in the Friday night Death Slot, and Gene Roddenberry quit in protest. And, well, you know the rest. Take-away message: no one can see the future, even Spock.

1983: Double-X chromosome cop

drama *Cagney and Lacey* is axed by CBS after its freshman season. Thanks to a letter-writing campaign organized by the executive producers, CBS brought it back for another five seasons, during which it racked up 36 Emmy nominations and 14 pretty statues. Takeaway message: don't mess with chicks.

1991: COOP (Citizens Opposed to the Offing of *Peaks*) lobbied ABC successfully for another six episodes to wrap up the very frayed ends of *Twin Peaks*. They ended up with Heather Graham as a booty prize.

2005: Fans of *Star Trek: Enterprise* offer to pay for production of a fourth season out of their own pockets (which run far and deep). UPN turns them down, and Scott Bakula has to put his shirt on permanently. Also that year, *Family Guy* is resurrected by Fox after two years on ice, after embarrassingly boffo DVD sales—the first time a show was brought back by aftermarket sales success rather than a fan campaign.

In recent years, the trend has been to shower the network offices with something other than money. The campaign to save *Veronica Mars* flooded CW with, yes, Mars Bars. Result: massive diabetes cornas in the programming department, but no life on *Mars*. Fans of *The 4400* have sent nearly 1000 pounds of sunflower seeds so far to the USA Network in hopes that their characters will live on.

And after a character in CBS's *Jericho* cussed with "nuts" in its swan



Any Excuse To Run A Photo Of Kristen Bell? I just want a mountain of candy bars could convince UPN to bring back *Veronica Mars*. PHOTO COURTESY OF UPN

song episode, fans of the show (and the dashing Mr. Peanut) sent the network 20 tons of peanuts. Casual Friday became Anaphylactic Shock Friday. But in that case, it worked. CBS brought back the show for seven more episodes. So far, only the nuts have been watching.

But sometimes shows get cancelled before even a single episode is aired. I personally don't understand this. You spent all the money on the pilot—you could at least put it on the air once! I'd like to propose an e-mail campaign to get networks to release a DVD collection of unrealized shows, such as:

The Dictator (1988), starring Christopher Lloyd as a former dictator of a foreign country, now living in a laundromat. This has Bush Sr./

post-Gulf War written all over it.

The Singles Table (2006), about a group of strangers who are all placed at the eponymous table at a wedding. It's like *Friends* who don't have friends.

Heil Honey, I'm Home! (1990), a British 1950s sitcom send-up with Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun living next door to a Jewish couple. Uh, nuff said.

Heat Vision and Jack (1999), starring Jack Black as an ex-astronaut

turned a genius as a result of a lab accident, and his talking motorcycle (voiced by Owen Wilson). No, I'm not kidding.

Hmmm, maybe some television shows are better left unseen. The moral of the story is: network execs don't have a freaking clue what they're doing. But they might get a little chunkier from efforts to revive *Las Vegas* and *Cavemen* with lobster dinners and full racks of ribs. Damn, why aren't I in L.A. already?

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MOVIES • OPENING THIS WEEK

21

Jim Sturgess, Kate Bosworth, Laurence Fishburne, and Kevin Spacey star in *Legally Blonde* director Robert Luketic's gambling drama, inspired by the true story of six MIT students who used their math skills to become expert card counters and rake in millions at the Las Vegas blackjack tables.

ALBERTA STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

A selection of new work, from feature films to music videos, created by Alberta high school and post-secondary students, presented by the University of Alberta Society for Creative Filmmaking. *Metro Cinema: Fri-Sat, Mar 28-29 (7 & 9pm)*

REAR WINDOW

James Stewart, Grace Kelly, and Raymond Burr star in Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 suspense classic about a housebound photographer who becomes convinced that one of his neighbours has murdered his wife. *Metro Cinema: Sun, Mar 30 (2pm)*

ROCCO AND HIS BROTHERS

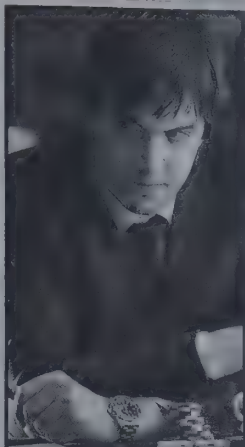
Alain Delon, Renato Salvatori, Annie Girardot, and Katina Paxinou star in *The Leopard* director Luchino Visconti's 1960 Italian cinema landmark about a family whose decision to move north to Milan in search of a better life leads only to tragedy. In Italian with English subtitles. *Metro Cinema: Sun-Wed, Mar 30-Apr 2 (7pm)*

RUN FATBOY RUN

Simon Pegg, Thandie Newton, and Hank Azaria star in director David Schwimmer's romantic comedy about an unathletic man who decides to enter a marathon as part of a convoluted plan to win back the affections of the woman he dumped five years earlier.

SLEEPWALKING

Nick Stahl, AnnaSophia Robb, Charlize Theron, and Dennis Hopper star in director William Maher's drab drama about a young man who embarks upon a destinationless road trip with his 12-year-old niece when his sister abandons her into his care.



Chips Ahoy! Jim Sturgess tries his luck—and his math skills—at the casino table in *21*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

STOP-LOSS

Ryan Phillippe, Abbie Cornish, Channing Tatum, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt star in *Boys Don't Cry* director Kimberly Peirce's topical drama about a young Iraq War vet who must reassess his principles when the Army unexpectedly orders him back overseas for another tour of duty.

SUPERHERO MOVIE

Drake Bell, Sara Paxton, Christopher McDonald, and Leslie Nielsen star in *The Specialists* director Craig's Mazin's gag-filled send-up of *Spider-Man*, *Fantastic Four*, *X-Men*, and other comic-book blockbusters.

VERTIGO

James Stewart, Kim Novak, and Barbara Bel Geddes star in Alfred Hitchcock's 1957 masterpiece about an acrophobic policeman who becomes obsessed with a mysterious blonde, and then even more deeply obsessed with a second woman who looks just like the first one. *Metro Cinema: Sun, Mar 30 (4pm)*

WRITTEN ON THE WIND

Rock Hudson, Lauren Bacall, Robert Stack,

and Dorothy Malone star in *Imitation of Life* director Douglas Sirk's 1956 soap opera about jealousy, alcoholism, and nymphomania set against the backdrop of the Texas oil industry. *Royal Alberta Museum: Mon, Mar 31 (8pm)*

MOVIES • ALSO PLAYING

10,000 B.C.

There are *B.C.* comic strips with more historical authenticity than this movie, but that carefree disregard for all forms of scientific and dramatic logic is part of its charm. Or it would be if it weren't absolutely terrible.

★☆☆☆☆

THE BANK JOB

Everyone loves Jason Statham, but everyone also knows he doesn't always star in the greatest movies. But this twisty heist picture, rich in nasty, gritty 1970s atmosphere, is a happy exception.

★★★★☆

IN BRUGES

Loquacious hitmen with violent tempers have become a cliché in this post-Tarantino indie-movie era, but playwright-turned-writer/director Martin McDonagh revitalizes the archetype with this funny, bloody, beautifully structured dark comedy set in... Belgium? That's right: Belgium.

★★★★★

NEVER BACK DOWN

Just back away... from the theatre! (Zing!)

★★☆☆☆

SHUTTER

Sory—blurry photos just aren't that scary.

★☆☆☆☆

UP THE YANGTZE

The Three Gorges Dam has had a devastating impact upon the Chinese people, but director Yung Chang wisely keeps his film narrowly focused on two of them—a pair of teens whose lives centre around a tacky cruise ship. Sad, funny, and altogether fascinating.

★★★★☆

Rolling Stone Peter Travers

“★★★★★”

THE FIRST MAJOR MOVIE OF THE NEW YEAR THAT TOUCHES GREATNESS. 'STOP-LOSS' STRIKES A UNIVERSAL CHORD THAT TRANSCENDS POLITICS AND PREACHING. IT'S THE REAL DEAL. RAW AND RIVETING.”

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StopLossMovie.com

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—PLAYWRIGHT LESLEA KROLL ON THE SITUATION FACING THE HEROINES OF *SWALLOW*

THEATRE PREVIEW • TOXIC SHOCK • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK / 725 words

No Birds To Describe It

IF SAMUEL BECKETT WROTE AN ENVIRONMENTAL TRACT, IT MIGHT TURN OUT LIKE LESLEA KROLL'S *SWALLOW*

SWALLOW

Directed by Eileen Sproule. Written by Leslea Kroll.

Starring Rebecca Starr and Laura Raboud. To Mar 30.

Azimuth Theatre's Living Room Playhouse (1115-106 St).

Tickets available through TIX on the Square (420-1751/
tixonthesquare.ca).

Leslea Kroll's new play, she says, was inspired by the plight of the ivory gull, an arctic bird that has been brought to the brink of extinction by widespread industrial contamination of its nesting sites. (The ivory gull is currently listed as "near threatened" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's comprehensive "Red List" of endangered and threatened species.) And one of the big themes Kroll says she wanted to explore was the idea of *gullibility*, the willingness of ordinary citizens to believe big business and big government when they tell us not to be concerned about their stewardship of the natural environment. So when she decided she wanted to name the play after a bird, it was obvious what she had to do.

She named it *Swallow*.

Yep, she kind of blindsided me with that one, too—but Kroll says that she surprised herself a few times when she was working on the script. In its original draft, there was only one central character: a tourist on an ocean liner traveling through the Arctic who jumps ship and spends the play marooned in the North, looking at the gulls and waiting for the ice to come back. "I think the problem with that version of the script," Kroll says, "was that

I had spent way too much time trying to make it funny. And at a certain point, I thought to myself, 'This isn't a funny issue. Maybe I shouldn't focus on that so much.'"

But what should she focus on instead? It became clear to her at last year's LitFest when she attended a lecture by Elizabeth Kolbert, the journalist whose articles about the effects of climate change in Greenland, Iceland, and Alaska appear regularly in *The New Yorker*.

"She talked about a recent trip she took to Fort McMurray," Kroll says, "and I found myself inspired but at the same time disheartened by some of the information she was presenting. And one of the people who was there asked Kolbert how she would present that information in a narrative context, and she said, 'I don't know. I'm a journalist.' And a little bell went off in my head: 'I know how.' And in the second draft, it became a totally different play."

Instead of one central character, now there would be two: a pair of sisters, Jules and Karly, whose home island of Aluvut is now underwater, and who have found work as sort of human scarecrows, shooing away the ivory gulls from landing on the shore of a toxically polluted tailings pond on the fringes of a tar sands development. Coping as best as they can in this blighted landscape, succumbing to various cancers, they nevertheless try as best they can to remain hopeful that the birds will one day be able to return, and that they themselves can go back to Aluvut.

"For me, Jules personifies gullibility," Kroll says. "She the one holding onto the thought of going back home, even though it's submerged. And Karly is the realist—she gets



The Girls Like To Be With The Gulls | Rebecca Starr and Laura Raboud are not looking their best in *Swallow*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

that they're in this place because, as migrant workers, they have no other choice. They're alive, but in a living hell."

The setting is at once a surreal, empty landscape like something out of a Samuel Beckett play, and an environment that is becoming increasingly common up north. Kroll recalls reading a new story about Stéphane Dion flying over mining territory in a plane; he asked the name of that

enormous lake down there, and was told that wasn't a lake but a toxic tailings pond.

"Some of them are two miles across," Kroll says. "Apparently you can see them from space. Let's face it: this is a huge industry and brings a lot of employment to the area, but at what cost? And by 2010, from what I understand it's going to double."

"Right now I think of the play as in the exploratory stage," Kroll con-

cludes. "But I'd really like to take it to communities where this is happening and hear their feedback about the consequences. Maybe I'm optimistic to the point of gullibility, but I absolutely believe theatre can cause social change. There's a great song by Patti Smith called 'People Have the Power' where she says, 'People have the power to dream, to rule, to wrestle the earth from fools.' That's my mantra right now."



The Secret Of Nymph | Roberto Bolle and Darcey Bussell cavort through the Arcadian forest in the London Royal Ballet's production of Léo Delibes' mythological ballet *Sylvia*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

ARTS NEWS • NOTABLE HAPPENINGS FROM THE THEATRE TO THE GALLERY

ONSCREEN BALLET

Flexing Their Bussell

The 1876 ballet *Sylvia* is probably best known for Tchaikovsky's comment that it made his own *Swan Lake* look like "poor stuff in comparison.... If I had known this music early then, of course, I would not have written *Swan Lake*." Generous praise, but probably cold comfort to compose Léo Delibes, whose tale of archery-obsessed wood nymphs remains overshadowed by Tchaikovsky's fable about mutant bird-girls. But that's no reason not to take in the special screening of Darcey Bussell's final performance in the London Royal Ballet's production of *Sylvia* at the Empire City Centre this Sunday at 1 p.m.

WELL-DESERVED HONOURS

The Men From GLAAD

We're not quite sure why the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) gave its award for Outstanding Film to *Stardust*, with its embarrassingly minstrel-like drag performance by Robert De Niro, but we have no problem with their decision to name *Bash'd*, the "gay rap opera" by local boys Chris Craddock, Nathan Cuckow, and Aaron Macri, the year's Outstanding Off-Off-Broadway Play. Winners at the same ceremony included Rufus Wainwright and Anderson Cooper, which places our talented Edmontonians in the company of some pretty spectacular gay icons. Next stop: The Source Awards?

THEATRE

No Need To Be Apprehensive

U of A prof Kathleen Weiss captured the attention of theatregoers last year with *Shoe!*, a satirical debate over the seeming impracticality of fashion staged inside the Gravity Pope store on Whyte Avenue. The show was enough of a success to be remounted in London, England inside the chic, high-end Tracey Neuls boutique on Marylebone Lane. Now Weiss and *Shoe!* star Melissa Thingelstad return with *Caught!*, a new play they describe as the story of a disillusioned young woman suffering from a "suspension of belief." It runs from March 28-April 5 in the Arts Bams. Sadly, no shoes will be for sale afterward.

THEATRE PREVIEW • **OVERSEAS DISPATCH** • BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY | 1837 words

The Secret Diary Of Rachel Corrie

MARTYR? "SHAMEFUL" AMERICA-HATER? TO CRAIG CORRIE, THE YOUNG ACTIVIST WAS MERELY HIS DAUGHTER

MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE

Directed by Heather Inglis. Based on the writings of Rachel Corrie. Starring Lora Brovold. Mar 28-Apr 12, Catalyst Theatre (8529-103 St.). Tickets available through TIX on the Square (420-1757/tixonthesquare.ca).

Craig Corrie wasn't prepared for the news of his daughter's death. When 23-year-old Rachel Corrie left her home in Olympia, Washington to travel to the Gaza Strip with the International Solidarity Movement (an international coalition of pro-Palestinian activists), she assured him she'd be safe.

"She kept saying no one from IFM has been killed, and that was true," Corrie says. "I sort of thought, 'Here's this tall, skinny girl, and if she gets in the Israeli military's way, she could be arrested.'"

In March 2003, two months after arriving in Rafah, a small city in south Gaza, Rachel was crushed to death underneath an Israeli Defence Forces bulldozer, as she stood between it and the soon-to-be-demolished home of the Nasrallahs. ■ Palestinian family she'd been living with. (The home, which was eventually demolished anyway that October, was one of thousands razed between 2000 and 2004 on the suspicion that it sat atop a network of tunnels designed to smuggle weapons—though no tunnels were in fact found beneath the Nasrallah home.)

The news quickly became a flash-



She Said She'd Be Safe | The spirit of the pro-Palestinian and worker lives on around the world in the play *My Name Is Rachel Corrie*. PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG CORRIE

point for discussions of Middle East violence, or rather for the invective that passes for debate on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Supporters said she was a martyr defending the home of an innocent family; detractors called her an America-hating anti-Semite who lived a "shameful" life defending terrorists. (That particular pejorative comes courtesy of *The Wall Street Journal*.) Some say the bulldozer intentionally ran her over, others say the driver couldn't

even see her.

Corrie remembers his daughter's earliest dispatches from Rafah well, and when asked if he thinks Rachel knew what she was getting into, he's unsure—but he figures she got the lay of the land very quickly.

"When she gets there, and she's reporting the bullet holes around the windows of houses with children living in them, that indicated to me ■ military that's simply out of control," he says. "So that worried me. But I

also realized after a couple of weeks that you could not be in essentially in a combat zone for two weeks and be called naive after that. You just educate yourself quickly. You see that in her writing and voice, she figured out how to be constructive there."

In 2005, London's Royal Court Theatre premiered a one-woman show called *My Name Is Rachel Corrie*, pieced together by British actor Alan Rickman and journalist Katharine Viner from Rachel's diaries and e-mails (Rickman's curiosity had been piqued by some of Corrie's diary entries that had appeared in England's *Guardian* newspaper.) The show was immediately controversial—it was scheduled to receive its New York premiere in 2005, but was indefinitely postponed over concerns that local Jewish groups would protest it. But it's been staged around the world ever since, most recently in an Arabic translation in Haifa, Israel. And in fact, *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* is not in the least a political tract. It's more a variation on the well-worn coming-of-age story, backgrounded in some very contemporary politics.

"It's about trying to discover yourself as young person, figuring out where you fit into the world, where your values are," says Corrie. "And I think what Rachel believed is that your values needed to be acted upon. I think most kids feel that way, but we lose it by the time we become teenagers."

Corrie doesn't seem to let himself be too bothered by the controversy. He sighs when it's brought up

"There's so much argument about the play from people who've neither read ■ nor seen it," he says. "It's a lot for her to carry in terms of the expectations from either side."

It's also a lot to carry for the woman charged with bringing Rachel to the stage. Theatre Yes' Edmonton production features Lora Brovold, whose thoughts on Rachel and the play are strikingly similar to Corrie's.

"From a very young age she's sympathetic with all these huge issues," Brovold says. "World hunger, poverty—and she feels guilty about it too, about being so privileged... To see where she comes from as a child, and where she ends up before she's killed, shows how much hope she's had her whole life—and the turning point when she realizes what the world is really all about is so utterly disappointing to her. And I think the reader and audience are supposed to feel that disappointment and do something about it."

That's why if nothing else, Craig Corrie is proud of the way his daughter lived and died.

"I was in Vietnam in 1970," he says. "And you know, guys would get an incredible affinity with their fellow soldiers—you just go through a lot together. But we got to leave... What would that be like if you're holding ■ baby or working on homework with little kids and these families that can't leave? There's no way that she would ever just go onto something else and leave them behind. That's just not in her makeup. I don't think that it would be in almost anybody's."

THEATRE PREVIEW • **LEBOWSKI ON THE BRAIN** • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK | 1637 words

Riding Shakespeare's Whirligig

DIRECTOR MARY VINGOE PUTS A FRESH SPIN—AND THEN SOME!—ON STUDIO THEATRE'S TWELFTH NIGHT

TWELFTH NIGHT

Directed by Mary Vingoe. Written by William Shakespeare. Starring Ava Markus, Garrett Spellisley, Scott Shepley, Jenny McKillop. Mar 27-Apr 5, Timms Centre for the Arts (University of Alberta). Tickets available through TIX on the Square (420-1757/tixonthesquare.ca).

If you want to impress a respected Canadian theatre figure who's come to town to direct a production of *Twelfth Night*, here's a tip: when she recites her favourite line from the play, don't do what I did and tell her how much it reminds you of the last scene from *The Big Lebowski*.

You see, for Mary Vingoe, the most resonant moment in the entire play comes in Act V, Scene 1, when Feste the clown observes, "Thus the whirligig of time brings in his revenges."

It's a lovely image, and yet every time I hear it, I can't help but hear Sam Elliott as The Stranger sitting at that bar in the bowling alley and wryly musing how "the whole darn human comedy keeps on perpetuat[ing] itself." This is why the University of Alberta has never hired me to direct Shakespeare.

Surprisingly, Mary Vingoe—even after decades spent working in Canadian theatre, including a highly successful stint running the Magnetic North Theatre Festival—has never directed a Shakespearean play either. "I think I sort of hired myself," she says with a laugh. "When I was here with Magnetic North, I was participating on one of the many panel discussions—this one on women in Canadian theatre. And I remember sitting there and saying something like, 'I never get to direct the classics!' And [assistant professor] Kate Weiss was in the room, and I think

she figured, 'Okay, you want to direct the classics? Here you go!'"

The play that landed in Vingoe's lap, however, was *Twelfth Night*, which is likely the most frequently performed play in Edmonton over the last decade, narrowly edging out *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and Joan MacLeod's *The Shape of a Girl*. After reading various academic treatises on the play, researching notable productions, and even subjecting herself to the lackluster 1996 movie version starring Helena Bonham Carter and Ben Kingsley, Vingoe decided her production would take a back-to-basics approach to the material.

"Rather than set the play in the Victorian era or the 20th century or outer space or whatever," she says, "I really wanted to capture something akin to what the play would have looked like through Elizabethan eyes. The play comes at this interesting

time in Shakespeare's career—he's a mature playwright, *Hamlet* is just around the corner. And so the play fits into this familiar genre as a comedy about the restoration of social order—yes, the lord will get his lady and the lady will get her lord—but there's a darker edge around it. And the question becomes how far you take that darker edge."

Take Malvolio, for instance, the sycophantic servant to the countess Olivia, who is cruelly tricked into revealing his love for her and whose humiliation is a small, dark cloud hovering over the play's otherwise sunny conclusion.

"He's a social climber working his way up through the system," Vingoe says. "And Elizabethans were very class-conscious, so he would not have been a sympathetic figure to them at all for thinking he could move his way up the ladder, in a way that modern audiences have less of a problem

with. He's very similar to Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*—the other characters treat them as the butt of the joke, but Shakespeare shows how, even though they're playing by the rules, they still wind up squashed by Elizabethan society."

Vingoe says the play's other pivotal character is Feste, whom she calls one of Shakespeare's great fools, a figure who exists within the action of the play but who also can stand outside it and comment upon it. "His line about the 'whirligig of time' became our visual metaphor for the play," Vingoe says. "The set is constructed so that everything is turning, turning, turning, and just as things seem to be settling down, they pick up again somewhere else."

Perpetuat[ing] itself, even! I'm telling you, I think I'm onto something with this *Lebowski* thing. The Duke abides... The Duke abides.

EXHIBITS

ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL, 455 KING ST., SPRUCE GROVE, 962-0666 Until MAR 29 "The Midas Touch" by feature artist Julie Kaldenhoven. Info: www.alliedartsCouncil.com.

ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL, 1076-106 ST., 468-6611 EXT. 227. Until APR 12 "The Future is Later" by Bee Kingdon, Phillip Bandura, Ryan Marsh Fairweather, and Tim Belliveau. Until APR 19 "Contained: Protected or Prison?" various artists. "Ninana" celebration of aboriginal women's fine craft. Info: www.albertacraft.ca.

AGNES BUGERA GALLERY, 1023 JASPER AVE. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm.

THE ARTERY, 9255 JASPER AVE. Hours: Tues-5 pm, or by appointment. Info: theartery@rogers.ca.

ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA ENTERPRISE SQUARE, #100, 1023 JASPER AVE. 462-6223 Until MAY 4 "Seeing Through Modernism: Edmonton 1970-1985" over 30 modernist artists examine the rise of modernism in Edmonton, and the sites of critique and opposition which developed during the 1970s and '80s. "Awakening: The Art of Humanism" works by youth in the Human Youth Society program. Hours: Mon-Fri 10:30 am-5 pm, Thu 4-6 pm free admission. Sat & Sun 11 am-5 pm. Info: www.artgalleryofalberta.com.

ARTS HUB STUDIO GALLERY, 3RD FL., 1027-106 ST., 439-9522 APR 3-MAY 5 "Material Functions" Paintings by Josée Aubin Ouellette and Mandy Espezel and New Works by ArtsHub residents. Hours: Tues-5 pm, or by appointment. Info: www.artsHub.com.

BEARLAW GALLERY, 10403-124 ST., 482-1204 Info: bearlawgallery.com.

BLUE CURVE GALLERY, 6100-106 ST., 439-9522 APR 3-MAY 5 "Material Functions" Paintings by Josée Aubin Ouellette and Mandy Espezel and New Works by ArtsHub residents. Hours: Tues-5 pm, or by appointment. Info: www.artsHub.com.

BRUCE PELL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY, 1023 JASPER AVE. 462-6223 Until MAY 4 "Seeing Through Modernism: Edmonton 1970-1985" over 30 modernist artists examine the rise of modernism in Edmonton, and the sites of critique and opposition which developed during the 1970s and '80s. "Awakening: The Art of Humanism" works by youth in the Human Youth Society program. Hours: Mon-Fri 10:30 am-5 pm, Thu 4-6 pm free admission. Sat & Sun 11 am-5 pm. Info: www.artgalleryofalberta.com.

CABINET GALLERY, 10319-82 AVE. Until MAR 31 Selected works by Institute Paraichito members. Travis McEwen, Jill Stanton, and Josée Aubin Ouellette. Info: www.instituteparachito.ca.

THE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE, 925-118 AVE. 471-5800 Opening APR 2 "The Rescue" installation by Glacia artist Keith Walker. Info: www.thecarrot.ca.

CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA, 9103-55 AVE. 461-3427 Until APR 7 "Well-Being" by artists: Elaine Berglund, Paul Labrie, Gilberte Gagne, Maria Cieszkowska, and Milos Hajek. Info: 461-3427.

COLLECTIVE CONTEMPORARY ART, 6507-112 AVE. 491-0002 Until APR 12 "The Rescue" installation by Glacia artist Keith Walker. Info: www.thecarrot.ca.

CHRIST BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY, 967-82 AVE. 439-8270 "Mother and Child" A reflection on family and the art of painting by Christ Bergstrom. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-5 pm.

DESIGN INTERCHANGE ENTERPRISE SQUARE, 10230 JASPER AVE. Until May 5 "Design Works", innovative works by a lot of design staff and students.

DOUGLAS IDELL GALLERY, 1027-124 ST., 488-4445 Until MAR 29 "Gifts for the Grandchildren" by Alan Reynolds. Hours: Tue-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm. Info: douglasidellgallery.com.

ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO, 12419 STONY PLAIN RD., 482-1402 Info: www.warnermodernedgds.com.

EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY MAIN FLOOR ATRIUM, ENTERPRISE SQUARE, 10230 JASPER AVE. Hours: Daily 7 am-11 pm. Info: www.extensioncentre.ca.

FAB GALLERY, 13 FINE ARTS BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 2-5 pm.

FRINGS GALLERY, 10916 WHYTE AVE., 432-0240 Until MAR 29 "Eleusis" by George Borchert, Margaret Braun, E. Ross Bradley, Vern Busby, Edmund Hockinson, Eileen Heidler, Keith Turnbull, and Raymond Thériault. Info: www.paintspot.ca.

FRONT GALLERY, 12312 JASPER AVE., 488-2952

GALLERY AT MILLER STANLEY A. MILLER LIBRARY, 87 CHURCHILL SQUARE Until MAR 30 "Inside Out", presented by the Edmonton Sculptors' Association.

HARICOURT HOUSE GALLERY, 3RD FL., 10215-112 ST., 426-4180 Until APR 5 "Business as Usual" by Lynn Richardson and "Unpacked" by Jennifer Pickering. Info: www.haricourthouse.ca.

JEFF ALLEN GALLERY, STRATHCONA SENIORS CENTRE, 10831 UNIVERSITY AVE. 433-5807 Until MAR 27 "Meadowland Painters" Louise Rau, Ruth Harris, Esther Kozol, and Dorothy Mitchell exhibit landscapes, flora, and portraits in watercolour and oils. Hours: Mon-Thu, 9 am-4 pm.

JOHNSON GALLERY, 771-65 ST., 465-6771 Edmonton Oil Painters artists working in studio throughout the season. Artists featured include Susan Abnua, Susan Box, Shari Honey, David Brooks, Margaret Klopstein, Tracy Mardon, Anne McCormick, and Cindy Revell. Info: susanabnua.com.

LANDO GALLERY, 11730-105 AVE., 990-1181 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 11 am-4:30 pm. Info: www.landogallery.com.

LATITUDE 53, 10248-106 ST., 432-5353 Until APR 12 "The Community Archives: Documenting Artists Collectively Openly" features archival boxes dedicated to eleven Alberta artists at different stages in their careers. Hours: Fri-Tu 10 am-6 pm, Sat 12-5 pm. Info: www.latitude53.org.

LOFT GALLERY A.J. OTTEWILL CENTRE, 990 BROADMOOR BLVD., SHERWOOD PARK, 467-4481 Until MAR 30 "Abstracts": show and sale by members of the Art Society of Strathcona County. Hours: Sat 10 am-4 pm (except holiday weekends), Thu 5-9 pm. Info: Kaye 467-4481.

MANDOLIN BOOKS, 6419-112 AVE., 479-4050

MC MUILEN GALLERY, 8440-112 ST., U OF A HOSPITAL, 407-7152 Until APR 13 "Eight solos: Fused by Silver" photography by the Monochrome Guild. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-8 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am-6 pm.

MILK GALLERY, 1027-124 ST., 488-4445 Until MAR 29 "Gifts for the Grandchildren" by Alan Reynolds. Hours: Tue-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm. Info: douglasidellgallery.com.

NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE, 9704-111 AVE., 474-7671 Studio hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-7 pm. Gallery hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Tue & Thu 9:30 am-4 pm & 6-8 pm. Info: www.ninahaggerty.ca.

NORTH EDMONTON GALLERY WORKSHOP, 10546-115 ST., 482-6865 Until APR 30 "Autograph" sculptures and drawings by Bob Williams. Daytime Viewing by Appointment. 482-6865.

OUT OF THE FIRE STUDIO, 12214 JASPER AVE., 378-0240 MAR 29-MAY 3 "Pathways" by Cindy Clarke. Info: www.outofthefirestudio.com.

PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY, 10783-112 ST. Group Show, new works by James Lahey and Jonathan Forrest. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. Info: www.peterrobertsongallery.com.

PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY, 212304 JASPER AVE., 425-7479 Group show, works by David Alexander and Gregory Hardy. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. Info: www.peterrobertsongallery.com.

PICTURE THIS GALLERY, 599 ORRIDGE RD. SHERWOOD PARK, 467-3038 Info: www.picturethisgallery.com.

PLANET ZE DESIGN CENTRE, 10055-80 AVE., 428-3490 Ongoing displays include functional sculpture and jewelry by Sandra Sing Fernandes, metal sculpture by Linda Maires, and Bianca Khan, and paintings by Quentin Maki and Tim Rechner.

PORTAL GALLERY, #300, 9416-91 ST., 702-5522 Hours: Tue-Fri 12-8 pm, Sat 12-7 pm. Info: www.theportalgallery.com.

PROTESTS PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PERRON ST., ST. ALBERT, 460-4310 APR 3-26 "Land Poems" by Sharon A. Malloy, Lyndal Osborne, Loraine Shuba and Garry Williams.

ROWLES & CO. LTD., MEZZANINE LEVEL, 1020-103 ST., 462-4035 Info: www.rowles.ca.

SCOTT GALLERY, 10411-124 ST., 488-3619 Until APR 1 "Dust of Days" by Robert Sinclair. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: www.scottgallery.com.

SCULPTURE STUDIO & GALLERY, SHERWOOD PARK, 662-4160 Figurative and abstract sculpture by Horst D. Info: www.horst-sculpture.ca.

SELFRIDGE POTTERY STUDIO, 9844-88 AVE., 439-9296 Hours: 11 am-5 pm. Info: www.selfridgepottery.com.

SNAP GALLERY SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA PRINT ARTISTS, 10209-97 ST., 427-1492 Hours: Tue-Sat 12-5 pm. Info: snap@snapartists.com.

STRATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES, 913 5TH ST., SHERWOOD PARK, 467-8189 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm. Info: www.strathconacounty.ca.

STUDIO GALLERY, 11 PERRON ST., ST. ALBERT, 460-5993 Until MAR 29 "My Canada" by Al Anderson. Until APR 26 "Nouveau Artiste" by Miles Constable. Hours: Tue-8 pm, Thu 10 am-6 pm, Sat 12-4 pm.

TELLUS WORLD OF SCIENCE, 1121-142 ST., 452-3344 Permanent Exhibits include The Body Fantastic, Mystery Avenue, The Greens' House, Space Place, Discoveryland, and DinoDen in the Explorers Gallery. Synchrone Science Stage features Science Demos, Cryogenics, Electricity, and What Puts The Fizz in Soda Pop? Info: 451-3344. www.odyssey.com.

TU GALLERY, 10718-124 ST., 452-9662 Until MAY 10, 2010. Info: www.tugallery.ca.

URBAN ROOTS, 10418-82 AVE., 438-7978

VAAA GALLERY VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA ASSOCIATION, 3RD FL., 10215-112 ST., 427-1731 Until APR 5 "Up Close" by photographers Robert Todrick and Nicki Standing. Hours: Mon-Fri 10-4 pm, Sat 12-4 pm.

WEST END GALLERY, 12308 JASPER AVE., 488-4892 Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: www.westendgallery.com.

WORKS GALLERY, #200, 10225-100 AVE., 426-7122 Hours: Mon-Fri 12-5 pm. Info: www.theworks.ca.

ZIEGLER HUGHES GALLERY & SERENDIPITY FRAMING, 9860-90 AVE., 433-0380 Anahuacalli Mexican jewelry and art works by Canadian and Mexican artists. Hours: Tue-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thu-Fri 10 am-8 pm, Sat noon-8 pm, Sun-Mon noon-5 pm.

ZOCALO, 10826-95 ST., 428-0754 International crafts, artwork, and tropical flowers. Hours: Mon-Wed & Fri 10-6 pm, Thu 10-9 pm, Sat 9-5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm.

1175 Edmonton bush pilot display in WWII-era double-wide, double-long hangar. Hours: Daily, 10 am-4 pm.

CANADIAN PETROLEUM DISCOVERY CENTRE LEDUC, 81 DISCOVERY WELL, LEDUC. Guided tours, tailored education programs for classes K-12, safety courses and industry training, campground, library, and historical archives. Info: 1-866-987-4323 or www.cpc.org.

CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES, 10440-108 AVE., 496-8710 Over 50,000 catalogued photographs and slides from the 1880s to the present. Two display galleries. Free admission. Hours: Weekdays 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

JOHN WALTER MUSEUM, 10661-91A AVE., 496-8787 Admission free, donations gladly accepted. Info: www.edmonton.ca/pjhwalters

LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM, #118, PRINCE OF WALES ARMOURIES HERITAGE CENTRE, 10440-108 AVE. Hours: Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm.

MUSEE HERITAGE, #5 ST. ANNE ST., ST. ALBERT, 459-1528 Hours: Mon-Sat, 10 am-5 pm & Sun, 1-5 pm. Admission by donation, suggested donation \$2.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA, 8555 ROPER RD., 427-1750 Preserving the collective memory of Alberta, and the protection of Albertan identity. Info: www.tprc.gov.ab.ca/paa.

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE., 453-9100 Permanent exhibits include "Wild Alberta" exploring Alberta's natural habitat; Synchrone Gallery of Aboriginal Culture; The Natural History Gallery, examining historic geographical changes in Alberta. Hours: Mon-Sun, 9 am-5 pm. Info: www.royalalbertamuseum.ca.

SCOTT GALLERY, 10411-124 ST., 488-3619 Until APR 1 "Dust of Days" by Robert Sinclair. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: www.scottgallery.com.

SCULPTURE STUDIO & GALLERY, SHERWOOD PARK, 662-4160 Figurative and abstract sculpture by Horst D. Info: www.horst-sculpture.ca.

SELFRIDGE POTTERY STUDIO, 9844-88 AVE., 439-9296 Hours: 11 am-5 pm. Info: www.selfridgepottery.com.

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Nonexistent Problems From Nonexistent People



SAVAGE LOVE DAN SAVAGE
DAN ISN'T TAKEN IN BY THE DUDE WHO LOVES "HARD-TO-GET PUSSY"... OR THE DEAR ABBY CUCKOLD FANTASY

When I was in my teens to mid-20s, I fought a burgeoning weight problem. My heaviest was 235 pounds on a 5'10" frame. Now I watch what I eat and I work out. I have a six-pack. And here's my problem: I get too much attention from women. When I was out of shape, women paid attention, but not as much. Now, if I wanted to, I could get all the pussy I wanted. Single pussy, married pussy, all-different-color pussy.

agency.

Oh, and speaking of sexually aggressive women: Did you catch Abigail Van Buren's advice column last Monday? (That woman—she's the Johan Fucking Santana of pussy pitchers.) Now, I generally try to avoid policing the work of other advice professionals—life's too short to read Jamie "Get Naked" Bufalino—but I'm going to make an exception. In her March 17 column, Abby responded to a man whose wife was seduced, in the middle of the night, by one of his three brothers. The man's wife doesn't know she had sex with one of her brothers-in-law, and the husband doesn't know what to do about it. Abby suggested that his wife may have had an "inkling that it wasn't [her husband] that crept into her bed" that night, and recommended that her correspondent demand "chapter and verse" from his wife before packing her off to the docs for an STI screening.

Feminist bloggers were outraged—a

heavy snowstorm was starting and we decided to stay overnight! My old bedroom is upstairs, as are the rooms of my brothers, ages 25, 24, and 22. The guest room is downstairs. [Because] Marybeth said she felt a cold coming on, we decided I'd sleep in my old room. The next day, while we were driving home, Marybeth told me she was glad I had come to her room after all and made love

to her. Abby, it wasn't me! She had mistaken one of my brothers for me in the darkness. We are all about the same size and build."

Okaaaay Savage Love readers, let's pause here. How do we know this is a fake? Well, for starters, there are the ages of the protagonists: 27 and 26. Not 37 and 36, not 67 and 66, but 27 and 26—which just so happen to be, for most folks, the years

of maximum hotness. Fake letters about sexual scenarios always involve the young and presumably hot, never the old and presumably average. Next, there's the cascading set of circumstances that are as typical with fakes, utterly beyond the control of the letter's author: a snowstorm, a cold coming on, a far

SAVAGE cont'd pg. 59

WHY ISN'T THAT SLOW-PITCH PUSSY TURNING YOU ON?

MAYBE YOU LIKE TO WORK HARDER FOR YOUR PUSSY...

OR MAYBE YOU'RE AN ARROGANT DOUCHEBAG WHO

LIKES TO BRAG TO GAY SEX-ADVICE COLUMNISTS ABOUT ALL

THE PUSSY HE ISN'T BANGING FOR WHATEVER REASON.

Is it normal for a guy to turn down so much of the pussy that gets pitched at him? I am a tall Asian guy, 6'1", 165 pounds, cut and lean, 32 but look 28. But I like to go after the hard-to-get pussy. The easy pussy that gets thrown at me, I'm not interested in. What's wrong with me?

Lost In Pussy Land

Besides not enclosing a few dozen pictures with your e-mail, there's nothing wrong with you that I can tell, LIPL. More pussy gets tossed your way than gets tossed into a Dumpster behind a vet's office—good for you. Why isn't that slow-pitch pussy turning you on? Maybe you like to work harder for your pussy, LIPL, or maybe you're not a catcher (as the gays say), or maybe you're an arrogant douchebag who likes to brag to gay sex-advice columnists about all the pussy he isn't banging for whatever reason.

Or, geez, maybe you're just turned off by sexually aggressive women—and that's fine. No one is obligated to be into sexually aggressive women (they certainly leave me cold). But you might want to look into your heart—it's that tiny, undeveloped muscle beneath your left pec—to make sure you're not a dumbassmotherfucker turned off by sexually aggressive women because he believes "good" women don't or shouldn't have sexual desires or

highly unusual occurrence—because the only correct response, according to Jezebel.com, was something along the lines of "Your wife was raped! Kill your brothers—all three of them! Now! NOW!!!"

The problem with Jezebel's reaction is this: That woman wasn't raped, because that woman doesn't exist. Regular Savage Love readers are schooled in the art of spotting bullshit letters. So here's the letter, kids—let's see if you can spot the clues:

"I am 27, and my wife, 'Marybeth,' is 26. We recently went to my folks' house for supper. That evening, a

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MY MESSY BEDROOM. JOSEY VOGELS
**GUYS... AFTER READING
ABOUT THESE PENIS INJURIES,
YOU MIGHT NEED TO VISIT THE
EMERGENCY ROOM**

In this case, with her vagina full of tacks.

Welcome to *Emergency!*—though they never showed cases like this on that old show from the '70s.

The doctor says many of the patients who come in with bizarre sex injuries are often psychotic. Like the Tack Lady.

Or Porcupine Man—a regular who likes to do a lot of cocaine and then play *My Penis*, *The Pincushion*. "He comes in with at least 100 needles stuck into the end of his penis." Apparently, he finds this stimulating, that is until the swelling of his penis wrecks the fun.

For all their pride in their penises, some guys sure have a strange way of showing it, like the guy who decided he'd slash his penis into 10 bacon-slice-like pieces. "It took at least four surgeries to reconstruct it." The doctor uses pictures of the procedure in lectures to demonstrate the wonders of reconstructive surgery. So just how reconstructive was it? "He could pee again by the time he left. That's all I saw."

I don't think I need to say this but

I will: Do not try this at home, kids. Same goes for that needle business.

Not everyone who comes in with sexually related injuries is psychotic. Sometimes they're just nuts, like the 16-year-old who came in with burns all over the end of his penis. Turns out he had genital warts and was too embarrassed to see a doctor. He'd heard they burn them off, and decided to try it himself. Except they don't usually use hot knives down at the STI clinic.

"Then there's your standard dildo retrievals," the doc continues, "though we did do one unusual vibra-

The doctor's also seen a few examples of what he calls "missed the hole" injuries. That is, "broken" penises that missed their target during intercourse and slam-dunked themselves right into her pubic bone. (Because there are no bones in it, you can't technically break your penis, but snapping a hard penis full of blood will cause some nasty bruising). In cases like these, there's not much a doctor can do. "I give them some pain relief, tell them to stroke it every day, and wait for the bruising to heal."

Priapism is another common male

potency medication working a little too well. In this situation, they give you an injection in the shoulder and if that doesn't make you go limp, they suck the blood out of your penis with a needle. Fun, eh?

Almost as fun as sticking pipe cleaners in your willy. In this guy's case, they didn't get stuck, but pulling a big, fuzzy rod outta your penis can make your urethra very irritated. Another one he's heard of from colleagues but hasn't seen is the old "glass rod in the urethra" routine.

Why anyone would want to stick a breakable object—or anything, for that matter—up his urethra is beyond me. Why do these guys do it? They insist it feels good, the doctor tells me. Most guys I know won't even get swabbed.

Should you find yourself with a dildo stuck up your butt, my source suggests you get a family doctor you trust so you don't have to go to emergency. But if that option isn't available to you, rest assured that—as you can see from my source—most emergency doctors have seen it all and won't be shocked.

FOR ALL THEIR PRIDE IN THEIR PENISES, SOME GUYS
SURE HAVE A STRANGE WAY OF SHOWING IT, LIKE
THE GUY WHO DECIDED HE'D SLASH HIS PENIS INTO
10 BACON-SLICE-LIKE PIECES.

tor removal on a guy." It had lodged inside his butt and was still on. They managed to get inside and shut it off, but because it was in backwards they had to surgically remove it from the inside via his bowel.

sexual emergency. "If it stays hard long enough, it can wreck everything and make you unable to ever have an erection again." Sometimes, the guy is already impotent and the perpetual hard-on is a result of im-

ASTROLOGY • MARCH 27 TO APRIL 2 • BY THE KID

CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

PISCES (FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20)

There's generally two things that can happen to a fish outta water. The first is that you'll flip 'n' flop around on the ground, flappin' your gills, makin' grim gaspin' sounds while fightin' for oxygen. The other is that you won't let the fact you've got gills box you in and you'll let the process of evolution begin!

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

This week it'll seem like you're bogged down in mire, and that the universe itself is tryin' to extinguish your fire. Well, you've definitely hit a rough patch on your path, but it don't mean you've incurred the cosmos' wrath. All you've gotta do is keep sloggin' through, and the way'll soon clear up for you!

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

The longer you sit there sniffin' flowers, the faster you diminish your powers. You need to use 'em, or lose 'em and they've been dormant too long, so now's the time to start makin' 'em strong. This week, if you take any opportunity that arises, you'll not only get strength but also some pleasant surprises!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

At the start of the week, it's imperative for you to stand your ground and not let anybody push you around. For that matter, don't let 'em pull you either. You know exactly what you need to do, so don't let anyone manipulate you into not carryin' through, just 'cause they're offerin' other opportunities to you!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 21)

What you need is a different kind of 12-step program. The first step is always to admit you have a problem, so stand up and say, "Hi, my name is _____, I'm a Cancer and a love-aholic." This week, it's important that you don't let love cloud your vision or chances are good you'll make a bad decision!

LEO (JULY 22-AUGUST 22)

You're the ruler of the jungle and, as any member of royalty can attest, your subjects don't always think your ideas are the best. Well, that's just tough tarmale, ain't it? If you don't like somethin', you can change it. This week, ignore any and all opposition, so you can truly make a fair decision!

VIRGO (AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)

Don't be so hasty to chuck an idea that seems crazy as all get-out. It's crazy, all right—like a fox. It could even collapse your self-imposed box! You've got nothin' to lose and a lot to win, so why not let the games begin? There ain't no better time to take a crack than right now, while the wind's at your back!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22)

This week, what'll at first seem pretty crappin' will end up makin' you happy. That's why you wanna hold off on drastic action—you'll only end up havin' to make a retraction, when things actually turn out to your great satisfaction. Wait for the dust to settle before you do anything where you'll need to backpedal!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21)

Lookin' for a strategic jewel? This week, it's better to play the fool. In fact, flagrant folly'll be your best friend, by golly! Brag about bein' a buffoon, natter on about bein' a nut, cackle about bein' crazy in copious amounts but remember, you're an iceberg. It's what they can't see that counts!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21)

Before like you've got the cosmic equivalent of writer's block. Well, don't fret, 'cause there's hope yet. By Wednesday, you'll be amazed at the results you'll see when you release your creativity from captivity. If you give your imagination the free rein it deserves, it'll maximize the potential of your brain's reserves!

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19)

This weekend, it's better for you to keep to yourself, 'cause the way things are goin' you're gonna hurt someone else. You'll get so caught up in pursuin' success, that you'll create an ensuin' mess by either bein' too greedy or by ventin' your stress. Time to check your ambition before puttin' yourself in a bad position!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18)

Before you consider your life as a curse, remember that even if it's bad, it could be worse. It amazin' how good lookin' your life can be if you see it with a bit of 'relativity. It ain't always the changes you go through that cause discomfort and strife. It's often your lack of acceptance and your outlook on life!

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SAVAGE (cont'd from pg. 57)

off guestroom. And all of his brothers were at Mom and Dad's for dinner that night too. Or they all still live at home. And they're all in their 20s.

Now back to the letter:

"I have talked to each of my brothers (they all know about this), but they won't say who it was for fear of causing a rift.... I told them that unless I find out who it was, there will be a permanent rift between all of us. (Marybeth still doesn't know it wasn't me.) How do I handle this?"

How does he handle this? With his right hand wrapped around his cock, that's how. And how does an advice professional handle this? With the delete key, Abby.

Huge numbers of straight men—those lovable sickos—fantasize about their wives cheating on them with coworkers, siblings, sports teams, governors of New York, etc. Any advice columnist who runs letters that touch on sexual issues has to be cognizant of that. And when someone seeking advice spins out an improbable set of circumstances—including, in this case, a wife who can't recognize her husband in the dark—that literally climaxes with the realization of a thoroughly common male fantasy (cuckolding), well, that should set an advice professional's bullshit sensors flashing.

So, Jezebel, let's not get too worked up about the "rape" of this man's wife. Repeat after me: She wasn't raped, because she doesn't exist. That letter in Dear Abby was the work of a cuckold fetishist or cuckold wannabe. Yes, yes: Abby took the letter seriously, accepted its premise, and her answer was a bit clueless. (As was your credulousness, Jezebel.) But calling for Abby's resignation while Jamie Bufalino still has a column? Puh-leeze.

I just wanted to respond to the letters in your column from TALI and CPAC, gay teenagers being mistreated at home and school. While I loved your response, I think it's very important to let your young gay readers know that there is support out there—even if they're stuck in small towns. The Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org) has a hotline (1-866-4-U-TREVOR) for kids contemplating suicide or who just need someone to talk to. The GLBT National Help Center (www.glnh.org) has a large database of gay and lesbian organizations. And finally, your readers can check out the National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth (www.outproud.org).

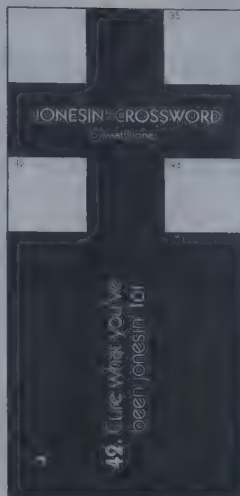
And to TALI and CPAC and all the other gay and lesbian youth out there who feel like they are alone, remember that this is tem-

porary. My brother came out in high school and went through hell. I never expected him to make it past his teens. He's in his 30s now, he has two degrees, he's traveled all over the world, and he has many friends and loved ones.

Proud Of My Baby Brother

Thanks for sharing, POMBB, and give my best to your baby brother. There's a lot more advice from Savage Love readers for TALI and CPAC and other gay teenagers at www.thestranger.com/savage/gayteens.

Download Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at www.thestranger.com/savage.
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0135. I Saw You

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190. Announcements

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1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

HAVE FUN making money as an actor or film extra on Calgary movie sets. All ages required. 403-521-0077.

INDEPENDENT ELECTRIC & Controls Ltd. We are currently hiring the following positions: Journeymen and apprentice instrumented mechanics and journeymen electricians. Check out the independent advantage by forwarding your resume to: Romeo Major, Email: rmajor@icgcorp.ca Fax 1-780-675-3263.

JOHN DEERE DEALERSHIP in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta requires Small Engine Mechanic. Repair and overhaul of lawn garden equipment; reconditioning of used equipment for resale; pre-delivery of lawn and garden equipment for sale; repairs to riding lawn mowers; maintain a clean safe work area. Knowledge of John Deere equipment an asset but not required. Send resume in confidence to Roy Speer, roy.s@deereand.ca. Fax 780-998-7075.

MEAT MANAGER - Freson Market IGA is currently seeking a Meat Manager to join our management team. This is a key position which will require a strong individual capable of dealing with the challenges of working in a fast paced and ever changing environment. Above-average compensation, deferred profit sharing, a comprehensive benefit package, performance bonus plan and career opportunities across the province. Please send resume to: Mike McGee, Store Manager, 632 Carmichael Lane, Hinton, AB, T7V 1S8. Fax 780-865-5353. Email: mcmcgee@freson.com.

NURSES, NURSES, NURSES. London Hospital has immediate vacancies. Relocation assistance available. Call 1-877-LHSC JOB (1-877-547-2562) to have our Recruitment Consultant call you or visit our website www.lhsc.on.ca. Join London Health Sciences Centre for all the right reasons!

PLUMBER 2ND, 3rd or 4th year or journeyman required immediately. Residential construction and service experience required. Fax resume or call 780-985-2132. Geo. McLeod Plumbing (Leduc).

PROGRESSIVE JANITORIAL Company seeking employees. Experience preferred but not required. Read and speak English. Competitive wages and a comprehensive benefits package. Bondable. Fax resume 604-576-7988.

SANDPIPER GOLF & Country Club in St. Albert now hiring pro-shop, grounds crew, and beverage cart, and caddies. Email resume to kevin@countryclub.com.

SEEKING A CAREER in the Community Newspaper business? Post your resume for FREE right where the publishers are looking. Visit: www.avn.ca/resumes_add.

SERVICE ADVISOR/PARTS PERSON, 3 - 5 years experience, for a growing Ford dealership. Earn big city wages for small community living. Email: frank@aspenford.ca.

SMOKEY RIVER EXPRESS in Father, located in the Peace Country, has an immediate opening for a general reporter. Fax resume to 780-827-2585 or email: srexpres@telus.net.

TIRE MAN REQUIRED for Tirecraft in Grande Cache. Phone 780-827-3224 or fax 780-827-4278.

WANT TO LIVE and work in Paradise? Full-time mature carpenter and vinyl installers needed in Salmon Arm, BC, family owned floor covering business. Willing to help with relocating expenses for the right person. Only professional or qualified journeyman need apply. Contact Cory or Darrell at 250-832-0500 or email resume to: ashtonloves@sunwave.net.

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

YOU NEED more money! Sky-rocketing demand for heavy-equipment operators is matched by skyrocketing wages for operators. Employers call you. Make a decision now, be trained as a heavy equipment operator in 8 weeks. 1-866-963-4766; www.heavymetaltraining.com

1600. Volunteers Wanted

Animethon 15
Needed: Projectors, General Volunteers.
Contact:
shaungraon@gmail.com

DISTRESS LINE, Youthone.com. Crisis Chat volunteers get excellent training, career-related skill development, rewarding experience and ensure those in need will have someone there to listen when life hits. Call the Support Network 782-6648 or www.thesupportnetwork.com

Do you like to drive? Volunteer to drive trail and walking seniors around Edmonton. Daytime Mon-Fri. We pay the gas! 782-1221

Do you love to cook? Robertson Wesley United Church (in Oliver) is looking for a special person who would love to make dinner for 75-100 homeless once a month, every month on the second Saturday. Well equipped kitchen, everything supplied, simple meals, lots of volunteers to help, and a great feeling of satisfaction when the diner's gratitude is evident. Contact Heather at 465-7904, 554-5569 or at NAIT at 378-1286.

Dogs with kids in looking for PUPPY RAISERS that can provide a loving home for a 1 year commitment, no previous training needed. Call 944-9011 to see if you have what it takes!

Ever thought volunteering was for the dogs? Try volunteering with our pet! Call Deanna 413-4682 (www.petherapyusociety.com)

Exposure: Edmonton's Queer Arts and Culture Festival seeks steering committee volunteers. Visit www.exposurefestival.ca

Heart Campaign: Kit assemblies, between now and February 28, we need you! Suit your schedule days/evenings/weekends. If you are available for three (3) or more hours per week, for three or more weeks, call the Heart of the Stroke Foundation now and ask for Karen or Laura at 451-4545.

HELP to broadcast news nationally for the blind and print-restricted! Email: edmonton@voiceprintcanada.com 451-8331.

HOME CARE volunteers visit isolated neighbors, go for walks, help with errands. Call Central Health Home Care 496-1300

Make a difference in your community... ElderCare Edmonton is looking for volunteers to help with daily activities such as crafts, card games and socializing. If you can spare a few hours each week and would like to have fun, call 434-4747 Ext 4

Take advantage of this volunteer experience of a lifetime! Become a friend to a NEW Canadian and share a life changing experience. Contact Dulani at 474-8554

2005. Artist to Artist

Call to Artists: Looking to sell your handmade wares? Do you make Cook, Unique, or Funky Handmade Goods?

Then you should be part of the Spring Step and Shop-Edmonton's Hippest & City Artisan Market (May 16-18) at the Transalta Arts Bams) featuring local designers, boutiques, as well as DJ's and performers to create an uplifting and extraordinary shopping experience. Supporting our Local Artists and community. Applications and info available: www.stopandshopshow.com

Fringe production looking for male and female actors. Play: Hamlet/Hamlet by Heiner Müller. For audition info contact Alyssa @ 432-3747.

2005. Artist to Artist

Edmonton Fashion Week is looking for dancers, musicians and performers. Auditions to be held on March 15, 2008 and March 23, 2008. Both auditions will be held from 6-7 pm at Planet Ze Design Center located at 10055-80th Avenue. For more information please check out www.edmontonfashionweek.com

Edmonton Fashion Week is looking for models. Final Go See to be held on March 30, 2008 Sunday from 1-5 pm at Planet Ze Design Center located at 10055-80th Avenue. Auditions for musicians, dancers and performers will also be held on March 30, 2008 from 1-5 pm at Planet Ze. For more information please check out www.edmontonfashionweek.com

Edmonton Fashion Week is looking for models both male and female. Go See to be held on March 15th, 2008 and March 29, 2008. Both Go See dates are to be held from 5-7 pm at Planet Ze 10055-80th Avenue. For more information please check out www.edmontonfashionweek.com.

Looking for Local artists to donate art for charity auction for www.human.org for June. Please contact Jeannette ASAP jjeanne@ualberta.ca.

Musical Director wanted for Musical Comedy for Edmonton Fringe, produced by Maggots Inc. Contact Chris at 918-6644 or email wilas@yahoos.com

2010. Musicians Available

Country lead guitar player up in years. For occasional gigs. 421-1250

Female rock vocalist seeks to join band. Incl: classic rock. Call Phoenix 421-1076

Female vocalist looking to join a band, country, rock or blues, you can reach me at (780) 233-6597 or char.c@hotmial.com

Singer Into Turnboreg and AC/DC available. Call Dick Delaware at 489-7628.

2020. Musicians Wanted

19yr old female singer songwriter looking for musicians to work with. Folk/rock music mostly acoustic, must be interested in live shows. Call Steph 780-910-0110

Bass and drummer wanted for P/T country/rock band. Vocals an asset. 937-3159.

Bass player needed for original/covers trio. Please be serious and professional. Positive energy required. Contact 860-8277.

BASS PLAYER WANTED. Original 3-piece modern rock project seeks bass player to join singing/guitar (30 and drums) (36). Influences: Radiohead, Killers, Smashing Pumpkins, Coldplay, Fall Out Boy. Contact evan.jones@hotmail.com

Bass player wanted for original rock and blues band. 780-636-3171.

Classic Metal Band Needs Second Guitarist. Must Be Able to Play and Have Professional Attitude and Gear. No Posers, Gigs or Addicts. Call Dean. 461-1932

SMITH MUSIC
Recording Studio

\$132 / Song
For a new trend
\$50 / Song

For Vocalist and Single Instrument

457-6495

Experienced bagpipe instructor seeks guitar instructor for even trade. I'll teach you to play the pipes and you teach me to play guitar. Please respond to torkturnare@yahoo.com

FREE SET OF STRINGS with Guitar setup. St. John's Music 10452 Mayfield Road. (780) 452-4810

2020. Musicians Wanted

GhostWood Studio
Demo/Album Recording
780-722-4537
www.ghostwoodstudio.com

GUITARISTS, BASSISTS, Pianists & Drummers, vocalists needed for good paying teaching jobs. Call 428-2252

Guitarist/singer looking for drummer and bassist for original work. www.myspace.com/fallingesther. 780-945-7555.

Local rock n roll three piece, Vis Vitale, now searching for monster vocal front. The real deal looking for same. Myspace.com/visitalis

New Open Stage at X-Weeks. 7pm Beginning April 5, 2008. Host Bart Schultz. All Gear Provided. Everyone Welcome. Contact 469-8323-71-3237.

Non-profit organization is looking to create a creative local musician or band to work (jam) with a talented, experienced, keyboard and accordion player who is visually impaired. Dave knows over 200 songs and learns new songs quickly by ear. Dave plays mostly oldies music but likes just about anything. Dave wants to be part of a fun band and jam with other talented musicians. Contact Ben at 918-5608 or ben@skullism.com

Singer/Front man wanted for original bluesy rock and blues band. Has good catalogue of songs. 780-636-3171

Strong female vocalist seeking experienced country cover band. Have outdoor gig lined up. Serious inquiries call Candice at 780-970-8804.

2200. Massage Therapy

Chinese traditional body & feet deep tissue massage by registered massage therapist. 443-6221, 11639-97 ST.

IF YOU'RE TIRED OF INEFFICIENT THERAPY. Therapeutic Massage. Heidi 1-780-632-3515 (Vegreville) 1-780-868-6138 (Edmonton)

MOBILE SPA THERAPY & INCALL BODYWORK - by Sue

Quality Massage Therapy in a 1st Rate Downtown Space. (Mobile Avail.) Good Hand & Good Listener. (Free fee to Veniti) 428-1965 or 920-1865.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE THERAPY BUSINESSES AND ARE STRICTLY NON-SEXUAL

SWEDISH-CALIFORNIAN massage. 20 years experience. Old Strathcona. Also evenings and weekends. Almasta 405-8765

Transformational Massage, Tantra Massage, Sexological Bodywork, Health Coach with a 20 year experienced licensed therapist. Jani Lee 780-633-6623 www.secretsofantara.com

3050. Farmers Market

COIN AUCTION, March 29, 10 a.m., Olds Legion. 350 coins, 1906 25-cent small crown, 1890H 50-cent, 1948 silver dollar, gold, mules, silver, paper money, \$5 fee includes catalogue. ALSO, Antique Estate Auction, March 30, 10 a.m., Olds Legion. Wind-up toys, dolls, Mickey Mouse collectibles, war memorabilia, saddlebags, lanterns, glassware, China, lamps, folk art, collectibles. Pigram Auction 403-556-8555, www.auctionsales.ca

MEIER 2-DAY Classic Car and Truck Auction. Sat. & Sun, May 3 & 4, 11 a.m. Both days. Edmonton Northlands Sportex. Over 200 Classics. To consign, call 780-440-1860.

3240. Travel/Trade

ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGES. Book online at www.canadatravels.com and save more on your vacations. Use code NCA74327 for discount or call us toll free at 1-800-563-5722.

3010. Auctions

SATURDAY, March 29, West- lock, 780-349-9545, 8 new heavy tire discs. Sell 1 p.m. Sunday, March 30, Winterburn, 2404 - 107 Ave. Army surplus, 5 older vehicles, 15 passenger van, large quantity of misc. - 50% of proceeds donated to Stollary Children's Hospital Foundation. April 3, Ashmont, 780-414-0090. V.G. Ranger gas welder, 78 Mack gravel truck, 1960s Landrover, tools, etc. Sunday, April 6, Gibbons, 780-989-3065, 2300 sq ft house, 40 X 50 shop to be moved, VG furnishings, wood-working tools. Proclaim Auctions: www.todaysauctionpage.com.

THINKING AUCTION! Guarantee your results with Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers. Whether it's equipment, real estate, livestock or a complete farm dispersal. Contact us today! 1-800-491-4494 or rbauction.com.

3210. Misc. For Sale

AFFORDABLE PHONE RECONNECTION. Bad credit - no problem! Call Tembo Telecom and ask about our new customer special. Sign up online and save \$20. 1-877-286-5939, www.tembo.ca.

"ALL STEEL BUILDINGS for sale!" Rock bottom prices! Widths vary from 10' to 30'. Various shapes, heights and lengths. Canadian manufacturer since 1980. Pioneer 1-800-868-5422.

AT LAST! An iron filler that works. IronEater! Fully patented Canada's/USA. Removes iron, hardness, sulfur, smell, manganese with well water. Since 1957. Phone 1-800-BIG IRON: www.bigirondrilling.com

BED, QUEEN, orthopedic Pillow-top mattress/box-spring. New still in plastic. Full warranty. Cost \$1100, sell \$375. KING size, extra-thick, cost \$1550, sell \$650. Will deliver. 403-371-1400.

FOR SALE. Remod. proof 40' and 20' sea containers. 5' X 10' coral panels starting at \$55. 403-226-1722; 403-540-4164; 1-866-517-8335; www.magnates-steel.com

FUTURE STEEL BUILDINGS. Durable, dependable, pre-engineered, All-Steel structures. Custom-made to suit your needs and requirements. Factory-direct affordable prices! Call 1-800-668-8653 ext. 170 for free brochure.

HOT TUB/SPA 2008. All options, with cover, 2008 model with full warranty. Brand new, still in wrapper. Cost \$8,300. Sacrifice \$4,750. Call 403-663-9767.

MEMORY FOAM orthopedic mattresses. NASA technology. Retail \$1,500, liquidation price, \$399. Queen (all sizes available). Limited quantities. Health Rest Warehouse, 10821 - 182 St., Edmonton. Call 780-444-0799.

METAL SINKING/ROOFING. Best price! 32" V/RIB/36" Toughrib 29ga. Galvalume .869 sq. ft. Stock and S/O Containers \$89 sq. ft. 25/30 year warranty. ALTA-VID Builders Supplies 1-888-263-8254.

POOL TABLE 1" 3 piece slate, 8 ft. Professional Series. Solid wood with all accessories. Brand New, still boxed. Cost \$6800. Sell \$1950. 403-296-0979.

SAWMILLS from only \$3,495. Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Norwood model also available. www.norwood-industries.com. Free information. 1-800-566-6899 ext. 4000T.

THE CONTAINER GUY. 20, 40 and 48' containers. Also Reelers available. Weather, bug and rodent proof for storage. Will deliver anywhere. Excellent condition. Information phone 780-307-4656.

3240. Travel/Trade

ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGES. Book online at www.canadatravels.com and save more on your vacations. Use code NCA74327 for discount or call us toll free at 1-800-563-5722.

3240. Travel/Trade

SPEND A WEEK on Vancouver Island. Two bedroom, two bathroom, condo for rent. Fully furnished. Walking distance to beach. Ocean view from deck. 403-559-7608.

7230. Photography

Freelance Photographer open for business. Weddings, Portraits, The Best Relaxation Place in Town. We Welcome All Clients. Rates and details e-mail at reellestudio@hotmail.com or call 780-977-0312.

9450. Adult Massage

Asian Touch Massage
Asian Ladies, Young and Friendly. The Best Relaxation Place in Town. We Welcome All Clients. Contact Ken at 885-1980.

4001. Farm Stuff

BULL SALE! 99th Annual Lacombe Bull Sale. One day only. Tuesday, April 8. For more information call Peter Grant, Secretary, Central Alberta Agricultural Society, 403-318-4411.

HEATED CANOLA WANTED. Buying green, damaged, spring threshed canola. Buying wheat, barley and peas for feed. On farm pickup! Westcan Feed & Grain 1-877-250-5252.

WIN A BULL FREE at Vermilionaires 22nd Annual Chivalry Bull Sale. Nilsson Brothers Livestock Exchange, Vermilion, Alberta, Saturday, April 5, 2008, 1 p.m. 7-2 year olds; 15 yearlings. Don 780-853-2220; Brian 1-877-792-0599.

YOU'VE HEARD about it, now come see the Apache Firewood Processor at the Farm & Ranch Show in Edmonton, Mar. 28 - 29, booth #2020; and the Calgary Log & Cottage Show April 18 - 20, booth #3051 1-866-868-0067 or www.apachefirewood.com

5003. Real Estate Misc.

20' WIDE \$99,900 and 16' wide \$69,900 plus \$5000, includes Moduline Canada on new homes purchased by March 28, 2008. Best Buy Homes 1-877-396-5564.

\$79,900 16' WIDES with 18', 20' wides on sale now for immediate delivery 3 months for multi-section homes. At Homes, Airldrie 403-945-4488. Red Deer 403-314-2244.

CROSS COUNTRY Modular Homes. All 2007 models must be sold 16 and 20 wide modular homes. Custom orders. Triple M, 581 Grandeur, Conquest, Phone 780-470-8000 or 1-800-470-5444.

LAKE FRONT lot and cabin. Very private, well treed. Bluebird Lake, 50 minutes to Lake Louise. NW of Lloydminster or 2 hour east of Edmonton. 1-306-728-2691.

MID WINTER Madisons. 16' X 76' \$87,250. 20' X 76' \$114,500. Delivery included. All plans 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Buy stock or custom order. Limited time. 1-800-463-0084; jandelhomes.com, "alter factory rebate."

NEED CASH? Home owner mortgage loans. Purchases, renewals, refinances to 100%. Alberta Home Loans Inc. Call today 1-877-582-0929, Jason Pelletier. Pay off debt and start saving!

PROVINCE-WIDE Classifieds. Reach over 1 million readers weekly. Only \$249. GST (based on 25 words or less). Call this newspaper NOW for details.

REAL ESTATE For Sale By Unreserved Auction. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers 1-800-491-4494. Hwy 63 Newbrook 1 Home Package, 2 Acreages and 22 Parcels of Farmland. La Biche - 160 +/- acres Old River frontage, 1639 +/- acres Grazing Lease. Sale Date: April 4. Camrose-Lease 4 Home/Package, 2 Acreage and 5 Parcels of Farmland. Sale Date: April 12. Realtor: Greg Cripps - Rmax Central AB - 403-347-7103 rbauction.com

THREE ONLY. New 2008 16 X 76. Fridge, stove, dishwasher, hardwood cabinets. Free Sunshine Package (\$5000 value) until April 30. Sell \$89,900. "Excellent Homes Excellent Prices" Call 1-877-887-2254.

WINALTA HOMES - Building Communities. Now selling - Jutland Ridge in Stony Plain - Light-house Pointe in Sylvan Lake - Jubilee Landing in Shawano Park. Home and lot starting at \$259,900. Winalta Homes 1-866-960-2112.

WINALTA HOMES Factory Direct Pricing on all in-stock homes. Immediate delivery on a great selection of modular and manufactured homes. Hurry in now! Winalta Homes 1-866-960-2112.

#100. Cars

1ST IN CREDIT Rebuilding. Need a car, truck, van or SUV? Auto credit fast. Bad credit? No credit! Bankruptcy! Repossession! No problem. Call today and drive away. Call Stephanie, 1-877-792-0599. Free delivery anywhere. www.autocreditfast.ca.

1ST IN CAR LOANS. www.car-loanstop.ca Western Canada's lowest rates and prices on any make any model. Call us first or go online for free approval. 1-888-859-8666.

2001 FORD one tonne cube van. Does not run. Needs injector work. Good condition otherwise. Box has metal floor, \$2,000. o.b.o. 780-352-1110, Wetaskiwin.

2006 HONDA CR-V, air, cruise, tilt, pw, pm, pl, and more. Honda certified used. Reduced \$23,000. \$1454. Call Frontier at 403-493-3666 or toll free 1-888-465-6632.

BANKRUPT? BAD CREDIT? Call All makes and models. Professional credit rebuilders. Call Garth 403-888-5593. Cavalcade Auto Acceptance Corp., serving Alberta for 16 years.

CAR CRAZY 150 Antique Classic Car Auction, May 2, 3 & 4/08, Calgary, Alberta. Viewing May 2. Auction May 3. Memorabilia Auction May 4. Now taking consignments. Call Harold 403-827-6565; www.carrazy.ca

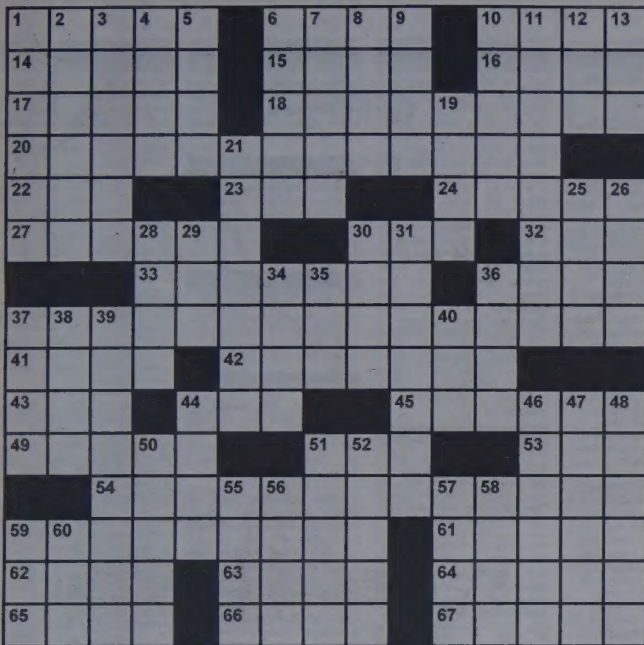
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GUARANTEED APPROVAL drive away today! We lend money to everyone. Fast approvals. Best interest rates, over 800 vehicles sale priced for immediate delivery. www.aprovedcanada.ca. 1-800-523-2798.

NEED A CAR or truck? Good credit, bad credit. Want a Visa? #1 success rate. Delivery in BC and Alberta; www.drivenhome.com or 1-888-501-1148.

6400. Recreational Vehicles

INSTANT CASH NOW on late model RV's 1999 and newer. Call Edmond's newest RV dealer Woodmont's RV World, Edmonton, 780-455-3380 or 1-800-798-3380.



ETHIC GISH ASST
CLASSIC GREY FLITA
PUNNYNAVEL EONS
TOBY NEGWEST
PAJITA RIFA GEE
ADAPTS DENIGNT
BIN SCAT PERIOD
LONI AMUSE AFRO
EIGHT RASH JAH
GNEPINT GENTO
VIN PETS RAYNER
ANCHORS SOYA
LEUE SPANHEGOUT
OSBE OAHU DESSE
ROTE NTSS SORAN
SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

BOX SET

PREPARE TO BE BOWLED OVER.

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

ACROSS

- 1 They may be capital
- 6 Pitch a penny
- 10 5-8 of 26
- 14 Assortment
- 15 Too gross to eat
- 16 Earth mother goddess
- 17 Dismiss
- 18 Pizza option
- 20 Cereal pieces that didn't make it past quality control?
- 22 Get ___ for effort (barely try)
- 23 The Beta Band's "Dance ___ the Border"
- 24 "___ potential..."
- 27 Interstellar measure
- 30 High muckety-muck
- 32 Simulate
- 33 Request demanding rest
- 36 Out of the office
- 37 Expected nothing but cereal as pay-meet?
- 41 "The Wire" character Little
- 42 Nipple rings?
- 43 Blotter substance
- 44 Pencil number
- 45 Soccer stadiums
- 49 Puccini title role for a soprano
- 51 Stayed out unused
- 53 Gator chaser?
- 54 Swished one's spoon around the cereal bowl?
- 59 It's debatable
- 61 Language that gave us the word "pajamas"
- 62 Garage job
- 63 Get into the game, in a way

DOWN

- 1 It gets screwed at the pump
- 2 Tarot deck grouping
- 3 Laundry machine with heated rollers
- 4 Bust-y figure?
- 5 "Auld Lang ___"
- 6 CFO or CEO
- 7 Brown pigment
- 8 Give yourself a brake?
- 9 Set to the same time
- 10 Long-plumed bird
- 11 Hairstyle pushed up in the middle
- 12 Troops
- 13 "You Can Leave Your ___ On"
- 19 Motherboard component
- 21 Tetanus spasm
- 25 Exotic berry in some Snapple flavors
- 26 "Mr. Roboto" rock group
- 28 Finish making Kool-Aid
- 29 Chow down
- 30 One of 37 cast by Bill Clinton
- 31 Blow up
- 34 It equals 100 cents
- 35 Mao ___-tung
- 36 Bath butt
- 37 Chowderhead
- 38 "Doooh... scared!"
- 39 They might be seen pacing in the waiting room
- 40 Dinghy propeller

- 44 Waterproof covering
- 46 Lewis realm
- 47 Sportswear company that owns Reebok
- 48 Discrimination of sorts
- 50 More precious
- 51 Large guy who can fit in narrow spaces
- 52 Diet ad caption
- 55 Wyle of "ER"
- 56 Trig function
- 57 Sound of being hit with a newspaper
- 58 Cash register drawer
- 59 Pirates' org.
- 60 Yes, to Vette
- ©2008 Jonesin' Crosswords (editor@jonesincrosswords.com)

TOM THE DANCING 849

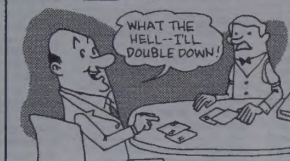
BY RUBEN BOLLING

CORPORATE CASINO



TRY YOUR HAND AT C.E.O. BLACKJACK!

- If you bet big and win, you get huge bonuses!
- If you bet big and lose, we pay you even more money to leave the table!



HAVE FUN PLAYING EXECUTIVE POKER!

Take a chance! The bigger your bet, the bigger your bonus if you win! And if you lose, you don't lose a dime -- simply walk away with the money you've already won!



Don't qualify for our V.I.P. Rooms? Don't worry!! Almost everyone who comes just plays our WORKING-STIFF SLOTS

You keep pulling the lever, and if you're lucky, you just might win enough to stay in the game. But if someone in a V.I.P. Room upstairs loses a bet, you have to leave, and your savings get wiped out!



It's the thrill ride of a lifetime!

And don't forget... Across the street is THE GOVERNMENT CASINO

play... OVAL OFFICE ROULETTE

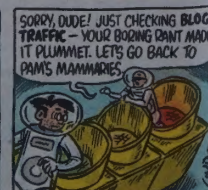
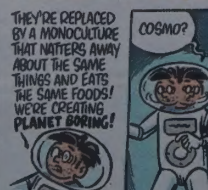
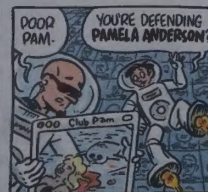
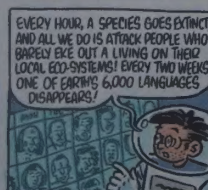
- Bet big and win...
- You'll get an honored historical legacy!
- Bet big and lose...
- And your buddies still get rich, and you still get a Presidential Library!



MOVIE LISTINGS

www.seemagazine.com

WELTSCHMERZ | See Mammaries Save Sea Mamm: weltschmerz.ca | lind@lindtoons.com



INTERSECTIONS • PHOTOS OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS



A crowd gathers at Gazebo Park on March 22, 2008 after marching down Whyte Avenue as part of a demonstration to raise awareness about the Chinese occupation of Tibet.
PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

t6e

FIRST PERSON • EDMONTON STORIES • BY SARAH HOYLES / 760 words

No Direction Home

COMING HOME TO BOOM TOWN TAKES
SOME GETTING USED TO

My trip down memory lane is delayed by 2 hours—mechanical trouble in Montreal.

I pass the time in Terminal 1 with a medium coffee (one cream, no sugar) and one of those anecdote pages on the back of some newspaper. According to its ink-black letters, eavesdropping on a cell phone conversation can reduce a driver's brain activity by 37 per cent, and the singer Rihanna, best known for her 2007 summer pop music wonder "Umbrella," has banned exactly those items from her concerts, out of fear that someone might lose an eye.

"All passengers for Flight 143 to Edmonton please proceed to Gate 15 for boarding."

Waddling down the chute to the plane, weighted down by my overstuffed carry-ons, I always say a little prayer. No I'm not religious, but I am

one of those people who considers herself spiritual. At this point what have I got to lose? Honestly, I just can't help myself, thinking about the cylinder we're all piling into. A cylinder that, in a few minutes, will push away from the gate and hurtle through the sky high enough and fast enough to break more than legs.

Light carryon luggage stowed above, heavy below, I buckle into my seat and buckle down to compile my thoughts. I have four hours to sort everything out and brace for it—the haunting.

I am moving back home. To Ed-

monton. The stomping ground of my youth. Where stick shifts, first kisses, and swigs were mastered.

I've have since seen some places, worked elsewhere and spent some time away. But this winter, I pulled a Forrest Gump. You know: the scene in the movie where Tom Hanks is running, criss-crossing the country, and then he stops. Realizes he's had enough. And heads home.

I didn't run cross-country: my two suitcases saw to that. Instead, I couch surfed and sublet my way across Central Canada, the Maritimes, and Newfoundland, finally doubling back to Ottawa, picking up work here and there.

And yes, I know I was going to wrong way. You won't believe the number of times people cocked their

I feel like I'm not so far from it all" I don't need to be in Toronto or Vancouver, New York, or Berlin. Or at least that is what I keep telling myself at 30,000 feet with my thoughts getting interrupted by bouts of turbulence and the drunk passenger in 14E.

14E is face down on his chair with his legs wrenched underneath the row in front of him. He's passed out, drool seeping out from his chapped, bleeding lips onto the ass-worn synthetic cushion.

Once we touch down no amount of staggering and slurring from 14E can hold my attention because the haunting has started.

It's a strange mix of familiarity colliding with progress, as the unassuming hometown I left has become

a grain elevator used to stand to welcome my family home from camping trips, back when we were kids.

Down the road, its moving day, with box stores packed side by side where the prairie landscape used to span. The claim-to-fame mall now houses designer stores. My favourite cinnamon buns are more expensive, and the Sidetrack Café is no more.

Everywhere I look there is a reminder of what once was. Unlike the other cities I have inhabited the past 5 years I have expectations for Edmonton. I expect certain people to phone, places to entice me, and to fit back in effortlessly.

But it isn't happening and it won't. Instead the city haunts me, full of what was and can never be again. Maybe I should have thought this out more, I can't blame everything on 14E because I'm the one who handed in that letter of resignation, gave a month's notice on my apartment, sold my furniture online, and bought the one-way ticket.

So maybe, its time for me to pick a place and face the present because, sometimes, the ghosts of the past are too hard to bear.

Have an Edmonton story to tell? Send your story or request for details to stories@see.greatwest.ca, Subject: First Person

14E IS FACE DOWN ON HIS CHAIR WITH HIS LEGS WRENCHED UNDERNEATH THE ROW IN FRONT OF HIM. HE'S PASSED OUT, DROOL SEEPING OUT FROM HIS CHAPPED, BLEEDING LIPS ONTO THE ASS-WORN SYNTHETIC CUSHION.

head at me and asked me "why would you leave Alberta? That's where all the jobs are".

Now that's not what is bringing me back. It's not for a job or a paycheck. It's like a song my friend sings "The more I move around, the more

a boom city in my absence.

The airport terminal, now expanded, is where I said goodbye to my long-time long gone boyfriend who I swore I would forever live unhappily ever after with. Then to the Anthony Henday concrete city gateway, where

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